

MOUTH OF THE RIVER

OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL DURHAM, NH 03824 ISSUE TWO DEC. 9, 2010



Happy Holidays

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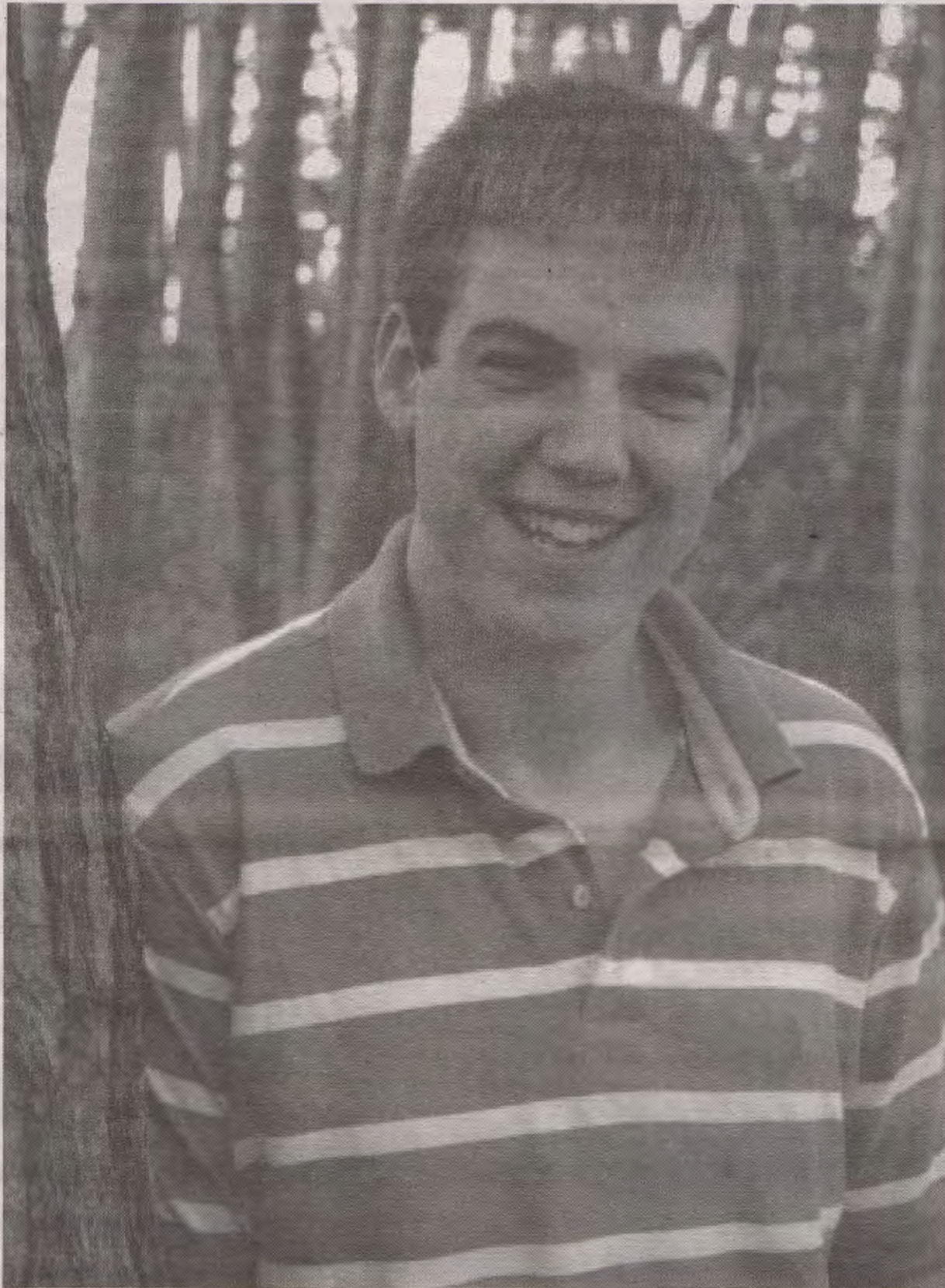
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Danielle Walczak
News Writer

REMEMBERING TYLER SMITH: A FRIEND TO ALL



Smith's senior picture - his senior quote was "Life's a garden, dig it." -Joe Dirt

"He was possibly one of the nicest people ever, he wouldn't hurt a fly and I mean that," Ashley Dupont, long time family friend of Tyler Smith explained.

Smith, who graduated from Oyster River in 2009, passed away on October 30th at 5:37 pm, at the age of 20 after his motorcycle crashed into a group of trees on Freshet Road in Madbury. Smith was wearing a helmet but was unable to negotiate a turn according to Foster's Daily Democrat.

Smith was an active member of the ORHS community, playing volleyball and working on the yearbook staff. Students and teachers alike all had high regards for Smith. He was a leader. Mrs. Horsley,

yearbook advisor, reflected on her time with Smith. "He put together and organized the year book talent show," she said. "He lip synced to a Fleetwood Mac song, he had on a leather jacket and sunglasses. One fourth of the audience was his family members. The talent show was really a success because of him," Horsley concluded. Smith knew how to get work done but his work was never done without having a good time.

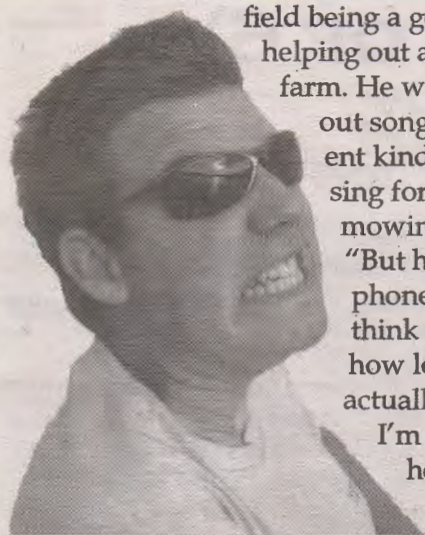
Smith was funny. Dupont a 2010 Oyster River graduate, grew up riding horses with Smith. She recalls Smith as being a really good rider and a prankster. "I think the most important things about him were his ability to make people laugh and he was never afraid of making fun of himself to accomplish this," she said.

On top of this Dupont explained that "he loved his family and friends and was always willing to give a helping hand and be there for people who needed him. He was just so loving when it came to everything, he loved life and living it to the fullest."

Xander Bahl, senior at OR, played volleyball with Smith for two years and remembers Smith's sense of humor. "In volleyball we called him the Rexagon because, occasionally before games he would give a T-Rex roar," Bahl Said. That was one of the first things I found out about Tyler."

Dupont recalled a story about Smith which continues to make her laugh. She remembers Smith "riding around on the lawn mower out in the (Cont. on the next page)

Photo Courtesy of Facebook.com



field being a good kid and helping out around the farm. He would belt out songs, all different kinds and just sing for hours while mowing," she said. "But he wore headphones so I don't think he noticed how loud he was actually being...

I'm not kidding, he would be all the way across the field and I

could hear him perfectly, so while I was riding my horse I had my own front row seat to the wonderful music of Tyler Smith. It was hilarious," she said.

Perhaps it was his ability to make people laugh that also brought groups together. Alex Knoll, a good friend of Smith's and fellow 2009 graduate, said Smith was one of the few friends he kept in touch with after high school. "Whenever I came home from school for break, I would somehow always find myself at Tyler's house sitting around a bonfire with a bunch of other friends," said Knoll. "I think that's indicative of what Tyler's personality was like; he brought people together. He always put his family and friends first and was proud of it."

Senior Ethan Hotchkiss, a friend and volleyball teammate of Smith's, has the same feelings about him. Hotchkiss wasn't surprised at the large amount of people who attended Smith's service at the Durham Community Church. Hotchkiss believes people came because of who Smith was. "Tyler would never betray his personal beliefs but he would welcome anyone else's personal beliefs with nothing but respect," said Hotchkiss. "Tyler had the character and integrity to unite people of all kinds, and I believe this was his function in all of the communities he was a part of."

Mr. Mroz, social studies teacher, had Smith in US History 1. "He was someone who always had a smile on his face. He was a nice kid and a real good student," Mroz said. Mroz remembered an oral presentation Smith did for his class on the Transcontinental Railroad. "He did his own DVD and got a 98." Smith was a good student who had a lot of interest in film. Horsley said Smith was a learner that "when he was working on something he really cared about he was really dedicated and quite motivated. He was more into the process of what he was doing rather than the grade. He took stuff



Smith at his graduation in 2009

Photo Courtesy of Alex Knoll

from the experience of what he was doing."

Smith was a good student, had the ability to bring together groups, was a leader and was funny, but it was Smith's kindness that so many will remember. Knoll said, "I remember Tyler as being one of the kindest, friendliest friends I've had." Horsley recalls that Smith made her cry once. "At yearbook, drinking coffee was a ritual. So I made mugs with everyone's names on them," she explains. "I made them with permanent marker though, so they washed off almost immediately." Horsley explained that Smith had gotten the right type of markers and made a mug for her.

Then at graduation he gave her the mug as a gift. "He left a nice note on the mug about his experience and all he had learned. I totally broke down. It was so sweet. It shows what kind of a kid he was, always thinking of other people. He always had a smile on his face, always positive." She finished by saying, "he passed away so young. He was one of the good ones. He was generous and genuine. He didn't put up any fronts, always wanted to help and was very positive."



Smith with the yearbook staff for the class of 2009

Photo Courtesy of Alex Knoll



Ben Belanger
Editor-in-Chief

LIFE ON MARS (PART 3 OF 6)

A DAY AT PINKERTON ACADEMY: THE LARGEST HIGH SCHOOL IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



Students by the hundreds flock to their classes at Pinkerton Academy

the school:

At first, the sun prevented me from seeing. I walked with my head down towards the math building at Pinkerton Academy with my hands in my pockets. When the sun was finally blocked by a building, I looked up. I squinted, there's no way it was real. In front of me was a mass of at least 1,000 people, behind me a few hundred more.

With upwards of 3,200 students, Pinkerton Academy is New Hampshire's largest high school and the largest independent academy in the United States. Each grade level has approximately the same number of students as the entire Oyster River High School. On November 19th, I spent a day there to see what Oyster River could learn from a large semi-private school like Pinkerton and vice versa.

I started my day in the science building where I met my guide for the day, Senior Shannon O'Hara - Vice President of Student Council. After a long and boring Physics class, Shannon and I walked over to the math building. (Yes; building. Pinkerton has 18 of them.) I found myself in the largest mass of people that I've seen moving at once in my life. "Were you out behind the gym?" asked Pre-Calculus Teacher Dave Rhoads. "It's a zoo out there." You think so? More students than are in the entire building at OR, were sorting themselves into one of 9 major buildings on campus. Shannon and I worked our way into the math building with a little difficulty. The hallways and stairs were relatively crowded and had much less room than at Oyster River.

Although I had no idea what was going on in Pre-Calculus, as I've yet to take that class, I did learn a lot. Here I once again found Oyster River to be behind in terms of technology. With a SmartBoard at the front of the class, Rhoads was able to bring up the class's worksheet from the night before and do every problem out exactly as it should have been done by the students. I found myself catching on to the curriculum that I've never seen at OR and it was clear to me that the SmartBoard was a worthwhile investment for the classroom.

Once the especially cheery-sounding bell rang again, we switched buildings to Mr. Breda's

AP Chemistry classroom. It was Shannon's free period, but as Student Council Vice-President, she spent it counting donations that the Student Council had received during a penny drive for the local soup kitchen. I spent it watching the "Chemistry Olympics" in the back of the room. For the day, the lab room had been turned into a gymnasium of sorts, with the main event being science horseshoes. Circles of rope served as the horseshoes and ring stands as poles. Students competed for bragging rights and the day acted as a break for the students who were used to a challenging class.

Chemistry Teacher Mr. Breda, a Pinkerton Alum, chose to go back to the academy to teach. "Pinkerton does a great job of supporting the teachers with new ideas... of..." here Breda stopped in stunned silence, his eyes on the Chemistry Olympics in the back of the room. "I can't believe you just did that!" he yelled. "He just ringed the volumetric flask on the first try!"

Needless to say, the rest of my day was not nearly as exciting as this.

the size:

The title of "New Hampshire's Largest High School" doesn't come without some struggles or achievements. The 18 building campus of Pinkerton Academy holds approximately 4.5 times the student body of ORHS. With such a large number of students, I noticed that it offered some benefits and some major drawbacks for the students of Pinkerton.

The good: class options and sports. "We have hundreds of courses available," said Glenn Ahrens, Dean of Students at Pinkerton. "I think it would be hard to go to any other school and see such a variety of courses kids can take." From Animal Husbandry to a Business Management class where students run the school store for a grade, Pinkerton has it all. Quite frankly, I was a little jealous. At a public high school of 700 students, it would be tough to justify an Animal Husbandry department, but here at Pinkerton anything's in play.

Although it's pretty tough to be a standout athlete in a school so large, the few who are have made Pinkerton a contender every year in many sports. The day I attended Pinkerton, the football team was preparing for a state championship game against Nashua North the following day. A D1 football team, Pinkerton had little

opposition all year. "We had one loss in D1 this year," explained Team Captain Mike Mazzola. "It was against Nashua North." Pinkerton went on to take the state championship, as it already had in soccer this year.

The bad: lack of socialization, poor teaching and rules - lots and lots of rules. Now, when a school has 3,200 kids, it may sound a little strange to say there's any problem socializing with people. Here's what I mean; Oyster River has a "core" where all of the senior lockers are located, and where in between classes we all congregate to talk and hang out before the next class begins. During lunch, we're mostly all together and we can easily find the people we're looking for. It's not the same at Pinkerton. When your classes are in a different building that's on the opposite side of campus and you only have 7 minutes in between classes, there isn't much time to see your friends. In fact, you wouldn't see them anyways. With everyone switching buildings, the chances of running into someone you know out of a crowd of 800 kids are pretty slim. Shannon and I met up with a few of her friends after a few of the classes, but the majority of these people didn't show up again for the rest of the day. With only a few seconds to actually talk to them before going to class this is where socialization is limited.

The beginning of my day at Pinkerton impressed me. The teachers knew what they were doing and they did it well. However, the last few classes left me feeling annoyed and overwhelmed and wondering if it truly was possible to find 250 strong candidates to teach in a high school. We'll use English as an example. English is one of my favorite classes at Oyster River. The teachers I have had have shown me that English is far more than busywork. The exact opposite was shown to me by my teacher at Pinkerton. The night before, students were required to make upwards of 80 flash cards with either a definition, a citation or one of a few other useless forms of busy work coped on to them. Instead of teaching the class something valuable, the teacher instead took the time to go around to each student individually and check off that they actually had done the ridiculous assignment and then he handed back another card which they had each written their thesis statements on and he had commented on. I hated every second of that class.

"Every 45 minutes, 3,200 kids start moving here at Pinkerton," explained Ahrens. "Because we have a campus there is always the potential for problems." Keeping a campus of 3,200 kids under control isn't an easy task. The easiest way - restrict anything and everything they can do. "It's straight up prison," said an anonymous student. Coming from what I assume is one of the most lenient high schools in the state to Pinkerton; rules were one of the more annoying aspects of the school. I understand that to keep some sort of order around the school, rules are a necessity. However, this is a place where I feel Pinkerton could definitely learn from Oyster River. The administration of ORHS has somehow implemented rules in a way that don't affect my day. I'm never scared that I'll get a detention for my actions - which I think makes less people want to rebel.

I really only started to get annoyed at lunch when I heard the people at my table discussing an event that happened the week before to a senior boy. "Remember how he got three detentions the other day?" said one student. "All he was doing was leaning on a tree..." Yeah, I'm lost, too. Three detentions for leaning on a tree? According to Mr. Ahrens, the student was also *slaking* the tree. Oh no! Who cares, just tell them to stop... I know high schoolers are animals, but I promise we learn.

Continued on next page...

LIFE ON MARS (CONT.)

the conclusion:

Pinkerton is enormous. Personally, it's not for me. It was a total change of scenery from Oyster River - it was fun for a day, but I couldn't imagine staying there for too long. Although it offers many benefits to its students, I felt lost in the crowd at Pinkerton. With so little attention devoted to each student individually, I felt like I didn't matter.

On the other hand, Pinkerton does a fantastic job of getting students ready for college - which is really the fundamental purpose of high school. Requiring senior students to write a 15-page minimum paper before they graduate is an incredibly time-consuming, but important step towards college. The campus atmosphere and rigorous classes available also add to this idea.

The final verdict: Pinkerton's a great school that may have just gotten too big for its own good. The quality teaching staff available I do not believe meets the demand of the school and this definitely influences students heavily, however with no lack of money in the surrounding towns, students are offered some of the most interesting and diverse classes that I've seen at any school so far. A girl in my math class who liked to speak with "texting abbreviations" may have put it best: "Pinkerton's like the best... like NBD (no big deal)."

the numbers:

	Pinkerton	ORHS
<u>Students:</u>	3,200	703
<u>Number of Buildings:</u>	18 (9 major)	1
<u>Tuition:</u>	\$9,369	N/A
<u>2010 Budget:</u>	\$35 million	\$36 million (ENTIRE DISTRICT)
<u>Percentage of grads to college:</u>	79.7%	81%



A Pinkerton student playing "Chemistry Horseshoes"

SNOW DRIVING



Alex Harling
News Writer

As the days get shorter and the nights get colder, it's very apparent the winter season is upon us. With the winter comes snow, and snow can provide a lot of fun, but snow on the road can be very dangerous. Kevin Towle, of Towle Driving School, had some wise words to share; "Keep your vehicle tuned up and make sure you have the proper tires." Towle also said, "Clear all snow off your car before driving. Stop earlier and know when not to drive." The best advice for driving in bad winter weather would be to not drive at all and avoid the roads. Although, not many people are going to follow that smart advice. This is for everyone driving on the snowy roads. Below are some tips for safe winter driving.

- Don't go out on roads until they have been plowed.
- Be mindful of sliding and the slippery roads. Allow more room between yourself and the vehicle in front of you to give you more time to stop.
- Tire traction is very important. Having at least 6/32-inch deep tread on your tires will provide you with proper traction. Having traction on the road will help prevent skidding and allow you to have more control of your vehicle.

• Technology is not that helpful. Four wheel drive and electronic stability control won't help keep control of your vehicle. Always stay alert and be ready for anything.

- Keep your lights on. This will let other drivers see your vehicle. It is good to have your lights on all the time to allow visibility, but it is very necessary especially in snow storms.
- If you become stuck, don't spin your wheels. Turn them side to side and gently accelerate.
- People typically allow their car's engine to warm up before driving it on cold mornings. This actually causes more harm than good. Allowing it to idle too long can cause damage to the engine. Allow your car to heat the interior and warm up the fluids, but the best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it.



Nick Chiodo is a driver prepared for the upcoming winter season

DOING "DONUTS"



Winter driving can be dangerous, but it can also bring some fun. Doing a "donut" in your car can be described by driving your vehicle in a circular motion, leaving tire marks that look like a doughnut. Kevin Towle looks at it as skid control. "It's good practice, as long

as it's safe and not at extreme speed," said Towle. Doughnuts can give you a better feel for how to react if you ever find yourself losing control of your vehicle. Towle said, "Make sure you go early or really late in the day when there aren't much people around, but make sure there is enough light out too." Doing doughnuts is never a good idea when people's lives are in danger. Here are some of the best places to do doughnuts in your car in a safe environment:



Parking lots in the Durham area:

- Durham Evangelical Church. It is near the Durham police station, but they probably won't notice... hopefully.
- Goss International. Some people go there to learn how to drive because of the secluded area, others go to drift.
- The UNH parking lots during winter break are excellent because most of the students are gone.



Reed Guerino anxiously waits for snow

Another spot to do donuts that isn't as local as some of the previous places is Pease International TradePort in Portsmouth. Pease is a prime spot for donuts due to its many parking lots and huge open areas. There is plenty of room to practice maneuvering your car in that manner.

On a side note, it is not a smart idea to do donuts in dirt parking lots. Adam's Point is a mistake too many people have made. Hopefully you found this article helpful if you plan on attempting donuts this winter season. Please use extreme caution and have fun.



Danielle Walczak
News Writer

FINALS FOR A BETTER YOU?

It's about time for midterms, signifying that one semester classes, like sociology, are coming to a close. Would you rather write a long paper about something related to your class, take a test or do something meaningful? "Do something meaningful?" You might ask. Well this is exactly the option students in Pam Raiford's sociology class are given.

Instead of a final, students in the class can choose to do something meaningful in place of a traditional final that relates to sociology and somehow enriches their lives. This is no easy way out though. Students must have a proposal, a clear purpose and an agreed upon way that they will be graded. Besides these basic guidelines the project is very open ended.

What is the intent behind the project? Raiford explains that the idea for the project "stems out



Photo Courtesy of Foster's Daily Democrat

of the education unit. Students feel so overwhelmed by school and it keeps them from doing things that they really value in their lives.

The project opens space up for them."

Raiford believes that the project gives people a true opportunity to learn. "I feel so strongly that we are most inspired when we follow our passions. Something we don't allow ourselves a lot of time to think about."

Projects in the past have included students attempting to quit their addiction to cigarettes, an adopted student trying to find her biological parents and students attempting to experience homelessness. Ellen Legard, a senior, is trying to do just this.

Legard's central goal is to "gain a thorough personal understanding of homelessness in order to help and encourage others to understand the danger in accepting the issue of

Continued on the next page.

MY WEEK IN A WHEELCHAIR

I love my legs. I know it's a pretty profound statement considering I use my legs everyday like most humans do without thinking twice. Yet, when my legs were taken away from me for a week, life was far more difficult than most think.

I was inspired to be in a wheel chair for a week by the "do something meaningful" project. I feel like my height is such a presence and a part of my everyday life. So what if I took away my ability to be tall? On top of this what if I experienced what those in a wheelchair experience every day? This is what I set out to do for a week and the results were more astounding than I ever expected. Although there were a large amount of personal observations I made, the following is a list of three major issues I faced that may apply to you and hopefully make you more aware of what people in wheelchairs experience all the time.

Don't Stare, I'm a Person Too!

One of the most frustrating things about being in a wheelchair was not being treated like I would be if I was standing up. I know it is hard to treat someone in a wheelchair exactly the same, but blatantly staring at someone is usually not a socially polite way to treat someone. So I ask you to please refrain and look at all people the same. Also work on inclusion in class. It is easy for you, being in a wheelchair, to be forgotten in class, sitting in the back isolates you from everyone else. All I ask is that you act like you normally would to anyone else in the class. I only had one class where I felt totally normal and accepted as part of the group. That was my Journalism II class. I thank them for treating me as they always do. Please don't act like there is something wrong or there is a problem.

Where'd My Independence Go?

Being in a wheelchair strips you of the independence you're used to, but gives you a new type of it all in the same breath. Being the independent person that I am, I'm not the first to ask for help. Yet when in a wheelchair you have to often ask other people for help. After a while you feel bad bothering people, but without their help you may not be able to maneuver certain turns or reach certain places. At the same time I was very stubborn and tried to rely only on myself as much as possible. Things that I found very difficult were getting out of classrooms, reaching books in the library and moving from class to class. This is where your new sense of independence comes in. You have to rely on yourself no matter what. It takes much more time to get from class to class in a wheelchair, people use the elevator when they don't need to, slowing it down and people don't get out of the way, forcing you to rush from class to class. It ends up that the only time you get to talk to your friends is at lunch. By the time my second day started, I felt very detached from whatever social world I am a part of at Oyster River and that was really difficult for me to deal with. It got very lonely. You have to rely on your own independence and convince yourself that you don't need the social interactions you had before to have a good day.

Be Nice! Lend a Hand!

Many people were helpful and lent me a hand when I asked for it but there were only five students that took the initiative and helped me consistently throughout the week, rather than gawked at my unfamiliar state or made fun of me. So here is where I will thank Megan McGregor, Sierra D'Amours, Brenna Cahill, Ellen Legard and Marcela Dorfsman-Hopkins. They all offered to help without being asked and offered a hand throughout the whole week. When social detachment is present, someone who may not even be your friend, asking how you are means a lot. Without them my life would have been a lot more difficult. That's why I stress if you see someone struggling-help them out! It may seem like something little but the help is definitely appreciated.

For any upperclassman that plans on taking sociology, I suggest doing something meaningful as a final. I have gained great insights into myself, the people around me and my social interactions through my project. It is very open ended. Just pick something that you truly care about and the experience will be well worth it.



Ellen Legard in her car/home for a week.

Photo Courtesy of Foster's Daily Democrat

homelessness and in perpetuating the major societal stigma surrounding homelessness." She began her process of understanding by living in her car for a week, which in itself was an eye opening experience. For her project she is trying to raise money for homeless people in the area and eventually, "start a program in the Durham area in which homeless teenagers are transported to a community location and given the opportunity to eat a meal and spend time with positive, influential members of the Durham community, as well as other teenagers, so they can build healthy relationships and begin networking."

Legard's project is an example of just how monumental the final option can be. Her motives behind devoting so much time to this cause are, "I've always felt compelled to help those with less than what I have, or even more if they are lacking in access to basic human rights," she says.

Another student participating in the project is senior Becca Dowhan, although on a smaller scale, her project is still just as meaningful. With two classmates, Dowhan went trick or treating for Unicef, for kids in third world countries. Dowhan was inspired a few summers ago when she went to Mexico. "Walking around with my family, there were little kids, ages from two to ten, coming up to me trying to sell me stuff. They

shouldn't have been doing that just to make ten cents," she says. "It was heartbreaking." Dowhan raised \$35 dollars which she says "considering, three 18 year olds trick or treating, it is good to me."

Dowhan among others is really glad she can do something meaningful as an alternative final. "I love the idea of this being the final because we don't know what the other finals will be, and it's easy enough to do. Everyone should be doing this for at least

the extra credit, if anything," she says.

Leah Janelle, a senior also participating in the project, agrees with Dowhan. "I think this a great idea for an alternate final," she says. "Instead of just taking a test and being done with it, we actually get to do something meaningful that we'll take with us and be happy about for the rest of our lives."

Janelle's project consists of her traveling to Dover Middle School, to teach a group of students with special needs how to cook. Each week these students have a class where they follow a recipe and cook a dish. Janelle will be attending the class one week to lead the discussion and help out.

Janelle is excited to "gain even more appreciation for these kids." She explains that she has always loved working with children with special needs. "I hope it will be a really rewarding experience for me to know that I helped them with this activity," she concludes.

Whether it's to better yourself, your community, your family or to gain a deeper insight into something that interests you, the "do something meaningful" project is an option that should be taken advantage of if one is trying to escape the traditional final.



A NEW LESSON TO BE LEARNED



Megan McGregor
News Writer

Have you ever been bullied? Has anyone ever made fun of you because of the color of your hair? Have you been in a situation where someone has harassed you on the internet? You are not alone, The American Justice Department states that each month one out of every four

kids will be verbally abused by another youth.

Bullying has become an epidemic and it is a problem not to be taken lightly. Advances in technology and social networking websites like Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and Formspring have increased bullying in teens and youth exponentially. An alarming statistic from NH-BullyWatch.org suggests that over 25 percent of adolescents and teens have been bullied repeatedly through their cell phones or the Internet.

It is not a good feeling to be bullied and because of that New Hampshire's legislators recently wrote House Bill 1523 which includes an expanded definition of bullying and cyberbullying. (See boxes below).

By January 1, 2011 all New Hampshire schools must adopt a policy, prohibiting bullying and cyberbullying. By April 1, 2011 schools must train all employees, regular volunteers, and employees of companies under contract with the school on identifying, responding and reporting incidents of bullying and cyberbullying. It is important that school districts provide educational programs for pupils and parents in preventing, identifying and responding to bullying and cyberbullying.

How did the idea for a Bill start? "Parents and students [in public schools] first identified that bullying was problematic," Donna Schlachman, a Co-Author of the Bill and New Hampshire State Legislator, said. Schlachman also stated "they [the parents and students] had done a lot of research and were ready for a change in the law." Cyberbullying had become more and more of a problem so consequently Schlachman decided to act upon her discomfort. With the help of school boards, the Education Board of New Hampshire and other legislators the bill was passed in one years' time.

35% of kids have been threatened online. Nearly 1 in 5 have had it happen more than once.

Cyberbullying is defined as:

1. Being cruel to others by sending or posting harmful material or engaging in other forms of social cruelty by using the Internet or other digital technologies.

Cyberbullying can include:

- Flaming - online "fights" using electronic messages.
- Harassment - repeatedly sending offensive messages.
- Denigration - sending or posting material about a person to damage his or her reputation or friendships.
- Impersonation - posing as a person and posting material to make the person look bad, get in trouble, or danger, or damage that person's reputation or friendships.
- Outing and trickery - sharing someone's secrets or embarrassing information or images online or tricking someone into revealing such information and then sharing.
- Exclusion - intentionally excluding someone from an online group.
- Cyberstalking - repeatedly sending threatening and intimidating messages or engaging in other online activities that make a person afraid for his or her safety.

Bullying is defined as conduct which:

1. Physically harms or damages a pupil's property or person
2. Causes emotional distress
3. Interfere with a pupil's educational opportunities
4. Create a hostile educational environment, or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

CYBER BULLYING AT OYSTER RIVER



Ben Belanger
Editor-in-Chief

"You just don't understand why it's happening to you," said an anonymous source who has experienced cyber bullying at ORHS first-hand. "It's really hurtful."

Although certainly not an epidemic, cyber bullying has been present at ORHS on a small scale. With name-calling and cat fights the leading issues, ORHS has seen a small number of cyber-bullying problems.

According to Assistant Principal Wotton, this "cyber bullying" age isn't any different than other forms of bullying; it's just done over the internet now. The cyber bullying cases she has seen have been minimal problems.

ORHS Senior Alex Hennessey doesn't see cyber bullying as an issue at the school, either. "I just think it's sort of a stupid issue," says Hennessey, agreeing with Wotton.

Those bullied would disagree. "It's worse [than regular bullying]. It shows that the people don't even have the confidence to say it to your face. The insults are much more direct."

With social networking sites and texting the leading causes, cyber bullies have easy and quick access to their victims.

Cyberbullying isn't something to make a joke of - it's a real concern for many students who are going through these events on a daily basis. Senior Ciera Gobron put it best: "I don't understand what the point is," she said. "If you have something to say to someone, just say it to their face."

WHEN IT GETS SERIOUS...

Cyber bullying can pose a legitimate threat to an individual's safety in certain cases. There have been recent stories in the news of cyber bullying being taken so far that teens have committed suicide over the seemingly constant barrage of insults being thrown at them. If you or someone you know is being seriously cyber-bullied, you should first remove the individual from your online friends or block their number. Here's the advice of a cyber-bully victim: "the best thing to do is to ignore it. If it doesn't stop, talk to a principal or a parent. It's a criminal offense if you're being threatened."

Photos courtesy of Google Images.

USE LESS, SAVE MORE



Megan McGregor
News Writer

During the 2009-2010 school year, Oyster River High School used 1,602,400 kWh (thousand watt hours). Randy Loring, a facilities employee for the SAU stated that "with each year we are getting better at using less energy at the High School."

What items in the High School consume the most energy?

- The buildings heating and cooling equipment
- Lighting both inside and outside



Seniors Hallie Miller and Helen Segil wasting paper towels

How can we help save energy?

- Turn off the lights when you are not in the room
- Turn computers off when not using them. Side note: Once computers are off, closely monitor the room temperatures – this will greatly help reduce the energy consumption
- Put on a sweater if you are cold rather than turning up the heat
- Close the windows when it is cold out, and open the windows when it is warm

During the year of 2009-2010 Oyster River High School used:

- 70 cases of paper towels which is the equivalent of 672,000ft
- 120 florescent lights bulbs
- 60 cases of toilet paper which is the equivalent of 1,200,000 ft
- 30,000 small trash liners
- 10,600 large trash liners



Sophomore Sean O'Brien jumping out of a trash can in fear of how many liners we use



Helen Segil wondering how many light bulbs we consume



Bridget Regan
Editor-in-Chief

SOUNDS SWEET? COUNTING SHEEP?

Wake up at 8:30, go to school at 9:00. Sounds perfect, right? Surprisingly not too many people are excited about this idea.

Last year the school board received a letter asking the board to consider different start times for the schools. This was in concern to research coming out about sleep deprivation in teenagers. This letter

was signed by the school physician as well as nurses and parents. The board then created a mock schedule with the high school and the middle school starting later, and had Superintendent Howard Colter obtain feedback from parents and teachers. The mock schedule is as follows:

School	Start Time	End Time
Elementary	8:00	2:30
Middle School	9:00	3:55
High School	9:00	3:55

But, response from students has not been the resounding "Woo hoo!" that many might anticipate. Many people involved in after-school activities and/or jobs are worried about how getting out of school around 4:00 would affect them.

"It's terrible," exclaimed Senior Emma True. "In the fall when I play a sport, when will I have time to do homework if I'm practicing until 6 or 7? And for swim season, it straight up stinks. I will have to get up at 4:30 regardless, because that's the time that the UNH pool gives us. Now I'll end up losing sleep rather than gaining it because I'll go to bed later after getting home late. I really don't think this will work."

Superintendent Howard Colter said that issues of sports, after school activities and jobs have been brought up by teachers and by parents at every single forum.

"After school activities are very important," said Colter. "If

lates tarts, or if kids have to leave school earlier to get to competitions or games, it detracts from them."

One person that had a very strong opinion about this topic was Athletic Director, Don Manyard. "I know that athletics shouldn't run a

school," said Manyard at a teacher forum. "But when you have 65% of kids involved in athletics, it has to be a factor! Teams would have to be coming in early to practice because there wouldn't be enough time after school."

"65% of kids are involved in sports but 100% are involved in

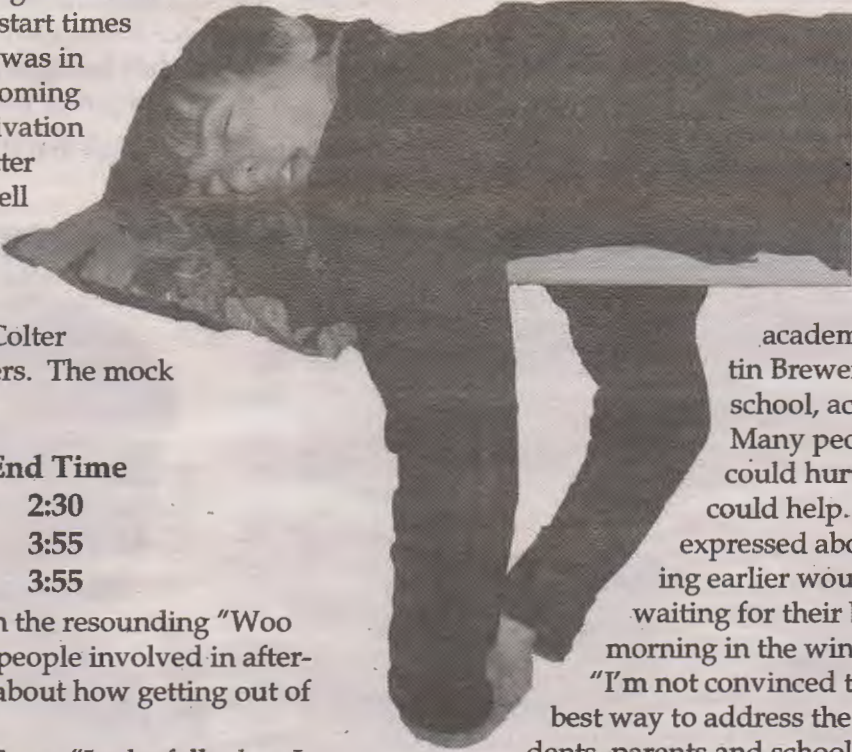
academics," responded teacher Martin Brewer. "Sports shouldn't drive our school, academics should."

Many people feel that starting school later could hurt the students more than they could help. Other concerns that have been expressed about the elementary school starting earlier would be having the young children waiting for their busses in the dark of the earlier morning in the winter months.

"I'm not convinced that changing the start time is the best way to address the concern," said Colter. "Students, parents and schools need to discuss the value of sleep. Relaxing and having downtime. We live in a fast

paced world with electronics, cell phone, computers, iPods, and all. Electronics are very much a part of people's lives. We need to learn how to control them and not letting them control you."

Colter presented his total findings to the School Board on December 1st, and the school board will continue their decisions from there. If you want any more information about this topic or have any questions, you can email Howard Colter at Hcolter@orcsd.org, or get in touch with members of the school board. Everyone's input is important, so let the board know how you feel.



MUCH ADO ABOUT NAVIANCE



Danielle Walczak
News Writer

You're sitting at your computer, and press send on your "Senior Sketch" that you spent an hour typing but when you go back, you realize it didn't save. Now you're in a pickle. You could either finish your final due the next day or redo the entire Senior Sketch.

This is an example of a real life situation that students experience applying for college. Applying for college is a stressful process in itself but it seems that Naviance, the "senior application website," has its highs and lows.

Naviance is a website that seniors are required to use aiding them in all things relating to their college application process. On the website students are able to send all teacher recommendations, request transcripts, fill out their senior sketch, fill out questions for recommendations and counselor recommendations and resumes. On Naviance, students can also search different colleges in an organized manner and can look at college application acceptance information. Head of the Guidance Department, Mrs. Heather Machanoff says, "it improves the quality of college searches and evaluation of the colleges in the [student's] search." Naviance was put in place to help simplify the organizational aspect of applications for guidance, make recommendations easier for teachers and to help students stay on top of all their applications. This year's seniors were the first to have everything application related on Naviance and this integration was met with mixed feelings.

Machanoff believes that Naviance has been good for the ORHS seniors. "Absolutely a success," she begins, though she acknowledges that transitions are not without difficulty. "With any new thing; change is hard. Students are pretty technologically savvy. Going electronic has been a little confusing; there have been extra steps we have to take." Conner Kolter, a senior applying to five schools, doesn't feel the same way.

"It's like tedious work that isn't really necessary," but later on she does say that believes that it does help a little. "It helps organize stuff. I wish we had an assembly or something on it," Kolter concludes.

The senior class seems not to have so many issues with Naviance itself but the amount of confusion they get from using the program. As juniors, the class of 2011 received an informational session on Naviance and had a refresher at the beginning of their senior year. However, many students seem to still feel incompetent using Naviance. Hannah Finch, says that "guidance was really not helpful. I figured it all out by myself." Due to all the confusion, guidance has recently sent out step by step instructions for Naviance. Machanoff admits that "Guidance probably should have done that in the beginning. Kids who did early action pretty much were okay. It's overwhelming; the step by step will be helpful." To guidance's defense they haven't had many questions from the seniors either. "We've only had 10-15 students come in and ask questions," Machanoff

says. She also encourages students to ask for help.

Perhaps the void lies in the preference that students voice for human interaction with guidance rather than on-line interaction. Hallie Miller, another senior, feels that the Senior Sketch isn't helpful but seeing the average GPA acceptance for schools is. When referring to the Senior Sketch portion of Naviance she says, "I'd rather Counselors ask us that stuff during meetings."

Senior Nathan Tong also agrees, "Naviance is really unspecific, when I'm doing the questions. I'm like, 'I don't want to answer these. I want to talk to someone.'"

Although most students haven't experienced any serious issues, Senior Nick Cobb has. Cobb explains that his "GPA and SAT scores haven't been updated [on Naviance], so it makes me look worse to colleges." He says that Naviance has hurt his application process, "because guidance doesn't tell you what to do. It was mentioned last year. Probably if they brought it up at the beginning of senior year, because at the end of junior year everyone forgot about it."

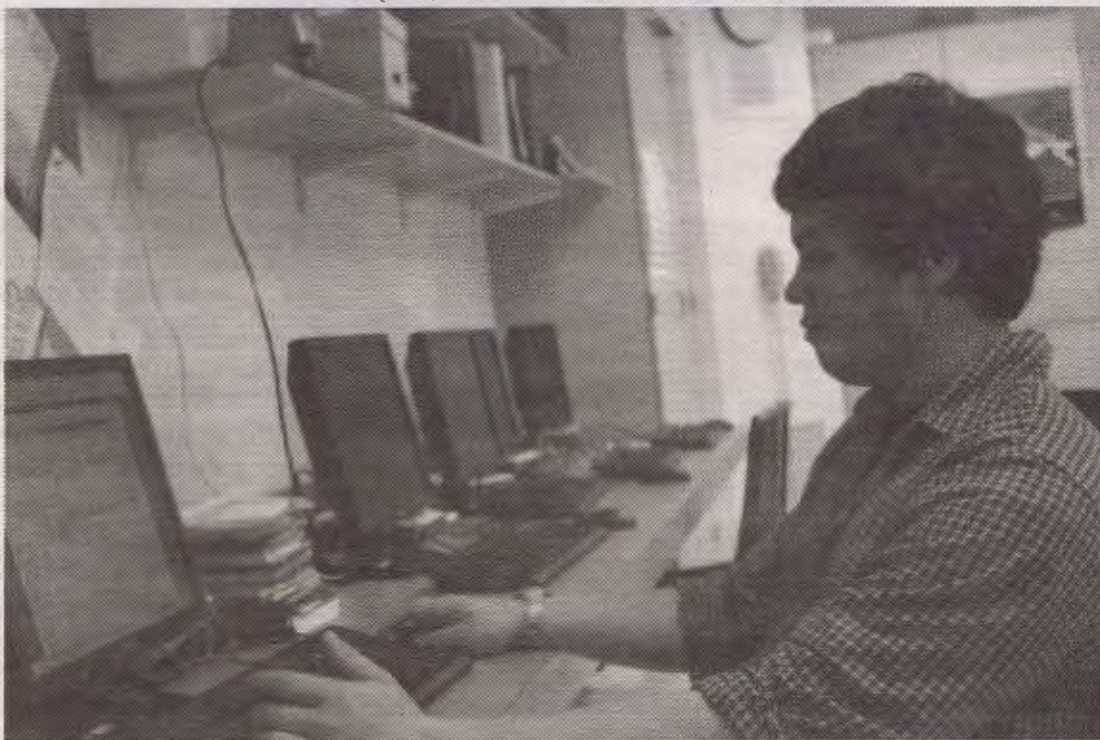
Machanoff does admit that there have been some issues with

Naviance, but they were purely because of the program. "They weren't prepared for the expansion. There were glitches where the questionnaires did not save. The glitches are frustrating. On our end it simplified the process. Having it on-line saved a lot of time for us," she says.

Although some people, like Cobb, have had issues with Naviance, fixing the problem comes down to better communication between the seniors and guidance, so all the seniors can complete their applications with as little stress as possible and move on to the next step in their lives.

TEN SIMPLE STEPS TO USING NAVIANCE:

1. If you are having troubles with anything see your guidance counselor!
2. Refer to the Naviance instructions on the guidance website that were also sent out through Edline.
3. Create a Common App account (even if you are not applying using the Common App)
4. Fill out the FERPA waiver in Naviance
5. Add schools to "colleges I'm applying to" list
6. Complete the senior sketch and resume if you need a counselor recommendation
7. Complete a teacher recommendation form
8. Send your recommendation requests through Naviance if you need a teacher recommendation
9. Request transcripts
10. Transcripts and letters of recommendation requests are due 15 days before the deadline



Nathan Tong logging on to his Naviance account

HEY MOM, WHAT'S FOR HOMEWORK?



Emily Healy
Features Writer

Everyone has had that awkward moment when you accidentally call your teacher "Mom". The word slips out of your mouth before your brain has time to process what you're saying and your face inevitably becomes red as the rest of the class suppresses their snickers. But what if your teacher actually *was* your mom?

This is the case for several Oyster River students with parents who work within the school. Some parents are teachers, substitutes, or staff. While the onlooker might regard this type of situation as slightly awkward, both students and their parents agree that the circumstances are not a big deal.

"It's fine," says Freshman Drew Thibault, Mr. Thibault's son. "I see [my dad] before and after school, but it's not awkward." Many teacher parents and their kids feel that being in the school together is not a big issue because they are able to strike a balance by making sure that they do not stray far from what any other student-teacher relationship would look like. Riley Maynard, the daughter of Athletic Director Don Maynard, says, "I don't think [my dad] treats me differently until we start talking about 'daddy-daughter' things, like if I forgot my lunch or where I'm going after school. Other than that I'm just like any other kid going into his office for candy." Parents agree on this matter. "I can't be the mother while I'm working," says Mrs. Beaton, the mother of Junior Graham Beaton. "I always differentiate between teacher and mom."

The one thing students name as a negative of having their parents work in the school is the amount of involvement their parents have in their lives. "Sometimes it's weird having your mom that much in your school and life, especially as a senior," says Mike Bilynsky. "She gets involved with things and knows everybody."

"I look at it through Graham's eyes," says Mrs. Beaton. "I try to stay out of his way. I love having him in the school, but that's not what he wants."

Mrs. Bilynsky agrees that the key to success is keeping a good distance. "In a way, sometimes a little distance is good. Because I'm so close to the situation, I don't want to get too involved." Mr. Maynard says, "There are things I don't want to know—we have unwritten rules at home; my kids never talked about things they knew about other students or their friends. I think that's admirable."

What students appreciate most about having their parents in the building is the convenience. "The best thing would have to be the resources," says Graham Beaton. "If I ever need to use a computer to print something out last minute, I can use hers. If there is a sheet I need signed she's right there and if anything like that comes up, there's an overall convenience of her being around."

Even with the challenges of maintaining a balance between student/teacher and parent/child, both parties seem to agree that they are fine with the circumstances and use the situation to its advantage. Bilynsky. "I wouldn't be able to be as involved if I had to divide the focus as a teacher and as a parent."

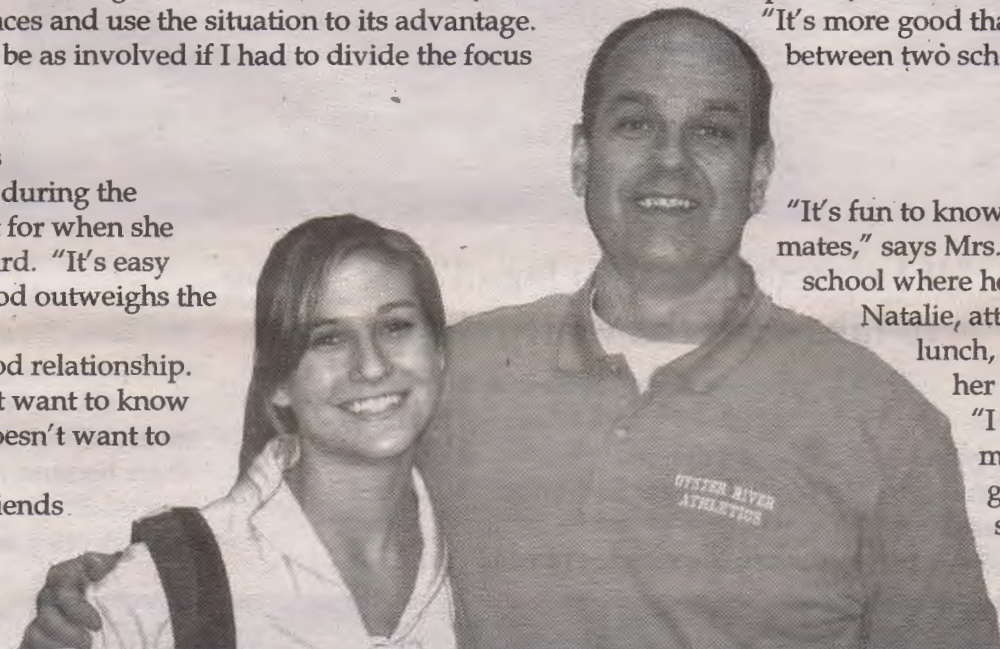
"It's more good than bad overall," says Mrs. Bilynsky. "I can support this school between two schools. I can support this school between two schools. I can support this school between two schools."

The Maynards

"I look forward to seeing Riley during the day—I'm already bumming out for when she won't be here," says Mr. Maynard. "It's easy having her in the school, the good outweighs the bad."

"My dad and I have a really good relationship. He doesn't tell me things I don't want to know and I don't tell him things he doesn't want to know," says Riley Maynard.

"The worst thing is when my friends assume I'm going to tell him everything I hear. We both know there are lines that can't be crossed and we both respect it."



Mr. Maynard and his daughter Riley

The Bilynskys

"It's fun to know their friends and classmates," says Mrs. Bilynsky of teaching at the school where her two children, Mike and Natalie, attend. "Natalie comes in at lunch, and the end of the day. I see her more, which is nice."

"I don't see [my mom] that much," says Mike. "But it's good if I need a permission slip signed, or if I'm not feeling good I can just get a note and go home."

The Beatons

Graham is the only student currently at Oyster River who actually has his mother for a class: E period Spanish. "I think she expects more out of me during class, I think she feels that if her son isn't paying attention, how can she expect other kids to?" he says. "But I'm always paying attention." "Having Graham in my class is a treat," says Mrs. Beaton. "I don't treat him differently than any other student."



Mrs. Beaton and Graham really do love each other

Weirdest Situation Award: Mrs. Kucera

Even weirder than having her kids in her class, Mrs. Kucera once had her brother Ben, who is 8 years younger than her, in her Issues in Literature class. Guidance didn't realize that the siblings had different last names, and this created an incredibly awkward situation. "Over Thanksgiving vacation, I was complaining about this other boy in my class," she says. "When we came back from break, my brother found this kid, shoved him in a locker and said, 'Leave my sister alone!'" Ben ended up getting a C in the class.

Which teacher would you want as your parent?

- "Mrs. Milliken"—Ashley Ayer
- "Mrs. Milliken"—Evan Doyon
- "Mrs. Drake"—Morgan Fay
- "Mr. Masi"—Anthony Shea
- "Mr. Morin"—Brandi Lapierre
- "Mr. Nichols"—Bridget Regan
- "Ben Belanger"—Mike Bilynsky

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF SHUA



Alex Harling
News Writer

Every school has its characters. Oyster River High School has its share of interesting people. This article is an inside look

into the life of Joshua Smith. This is a person who everyone is familiar with, but not everyone knows personally. There have been rumors and stories, but what is fact and what is fiction? Joshua was gracious enough to let me interview him and allow this article to be written. Below is an inside look at what Shua does, what drives him, and how he lives his life. This is the life of Shua. You've all seen him.

The vest wearing senior, known by most as Shua; but what is his real name? Shua's full name is Joshua Ian Smith. "I don't like my name," Shua says, "It's so bloody common. Plus, I am an atheist so the name Joshua ticks me off." Shua was born in Virginia, he doesn't remember where. Then he moved to Haverhill, Massachusetts and stayed there until the third grade. He then moved to Greenville, New Hampshire. "The one near New Ipswich," Shua informs us, "just to clear any confusion." Shua then moved here to Durham with his grandfather during freshmen year. "It was strictly for academic reasons," Shua said.

A typical Monday morning for Shua begins at 5:30 A.M. He describes the scene; "The alarm clock goes off, I get up and smack it. I sit on my bed because I am really dizzy." Shua suffers from severe dizziness throughout the morning, he doesn't know why. "I then go wake my grandpa. Sometimes he's awake and sometimes he isn't. I weigh myself and he records it for his log. Don't ask me why he has



"If I wasn't so damn lazy I'd be trying to take over the world right now."

a log, he just does." Shua is still disoriented at this point and it takes him till six 6:00 A.M. to get dressed. "It takes me awhile to get ready because I am still dizzy as hell." Shua will then go down to the kitchen. "I have myself a nice big bowl of cornflakes

6:40." Shua then waits for the bus to arrive and take him to school.

An ideal Saturday evening for Shua would be "at my house in Greenville without being bothered by my little brother while playing video games." Shua's house in Durham does not have any video game consoles. He thoroughly enjoys going to his Greenville house because of the game systems residing there.

Sorry Ladies, Shua claims he is not interested in dating. "I know nothing about dating," Shua informs us, "I don't wish to date ever." He

"We were like Bonnie and Clyde, but without the romance"

also said, "I don't wish to reproduce, I don't want kids." J.J. Clark, an acquaintance of Shua's said, "I don't think the world could handle little 'Shuas' running around." Shua said his favorite girl name for

a baby would be Sanrai, and his favorite boy name for a baby would be Adrian. If Shua could go anywhere in the world it would be, "Japan, that's an obvious answer. Where else would I go? I would go there because it's the Mecca for gamers. Hopefully I can learn the language."

Shua is often seen wearing headphones, and it's been a mystery as to what he listens to. Here's the long anticipated answer. "I listen to Japanese music. It's from a series called vocaloid. I have an itouch with Japanese orientated apps. I found a vocaloid version of YouTube. That began my fascination, I now have about 200 songs." Shua describes the vocaloid sound as a, "a music synthesizer that does lyrics."

Part of Shua's signature image is his leather vest. No one can wear it quite as well as him. "My grandmother gets me a vest every Christmas," Shua said, "I like to wear it

because it's really comfortable and has lots of pockets." Shua is a regular at Old Navy Outfitters. "I don't like to shop, but when I do, I go there."

One of Shua's favorite food is Chinese food. "Everyone in my family likes it." He also likes a South American dish called "Pisola," that he describes. "The



Shua and Marty Thornton partake in a game of "Magic."

and a small glass of orange juice. I will also put away the dishes from the night before." Shua is not dizzy anymore at this point. "I put on my shoes, get my stuff together and discretely listen to music till



"We are proud to be nerds."

main ingredient is peanut butter. It goes on a flat wrap. Instead of chicken I use SPAM, but you can use any kind of meat."

As many of you know, Shua is a senior this year and is preparing to graduate. This is a very important time for young people as they start a new life. Shua shares his plans after high school. "I don't have a plan. This concerns me. I am entertaining the idea of moving to Canada. It's nice and cold there, the summers here are too warm. I like the cold."

Shua is not sure about what profession he is interested in, "I'll do anything that pays a livable wage. I do really enjoy working with computers though."

Marty Thornton, a close friend of Shua, often can be seen with him. Marty discusses where his relationship with Shua began. "We met in Spanish class my freshmen year. I would make jokes and he would laugh. We were like Bonnie and Clyde, but without the romance."

Shua and Marty are members of game club, often playing dungeons and dragons. "We are proud to be nerds," Marty said.

Shua's passion is video games. Some of his favorite games are Portal, the Final Fantasy Series, Kingdom Hearts, XII, and Oblivion 4. His favorite movies are, Howl's Moving Castle, Spirit Away, and Serenity. "I have no idea why I like Howl's Moving Castle," Shua said, "and interesting enough it is my

favorite movie." Shua explains his interest in Spirit Away, "I like it because it's a good story with a bit of an acid trip feel to it." Shua says he likes Serenity because it was a "great cap for the ending of the series Firefly."

Shua really cares for cats. "I prefer short hair ones that don't get hair everywhere." Shua said, "I have a cat named Moon-Shadow,

he's a 'basement cat' in my house in Greeneville. If you don't know what a 'basement cat' is, just look it up on Google Images."

Shua believes that ninjas could definitely beat pirates. "They attack you from the shadows and you don't know they are there until you're dead," Shua reasons. "Once you're dead you can't do anything about it."

For recreation, Shua enjoys "reading books and listening to music. I do not go on long walks as some people think." He is also a collector, "I collect small shiny objects. It started with my mother;

she had lots of little stones. I do it because, who doesn't like shiny objects?"

Shua is a very interesting man. There is more to just the vest and the image you are familiar with. Now you know the facts and the fiction about the legend. For some closing words, this is from the man himself, "If I wasn't so damn lazy I'd be trying to take over the world right now."

SHUA'S TOP TEN SONGS

- 1) Red Flower - Alice Human Sacrifice
- 2) Anti the xholic - Luka Rin
- 3) Sweet Vengeance - Rin Kagamine
- 4) World's End Umbrella - Hatsume Miku
- 5) Black Rock Shooter - Hatsume Miku
- 6) The Daughter of Evil - Aku No Musume
- 7) The Confusion of Hatsume Miku - Hatsume Miku
- 8) Ura-Omote Lovers - Hatsume Miku
- 9) Flightless Bird - Megurine Luka
- 10) Pachabell's Cannon in D - Pachabell



Katie Burzon
Features Writer

Other has helped us all at some point. Whether to help find directions or to help cure our boredom, Apps have helped our society evolve and App usage keeps growing. With 300,000+ Apple brand Apps out there in the world, there's no knowing how your phone will help you next.

This beautiful invention was fully introduced into the world on July 10th, 2008 through the Apple App Store. The total amount of Apps on opening day? 500. Today Apps are easy to access and cost can range anywhere from free to over \$10. By October 20th, 2010, there were more than 300,000

Apps and more than 7 billion downloads. Apps have shaped the way we live.

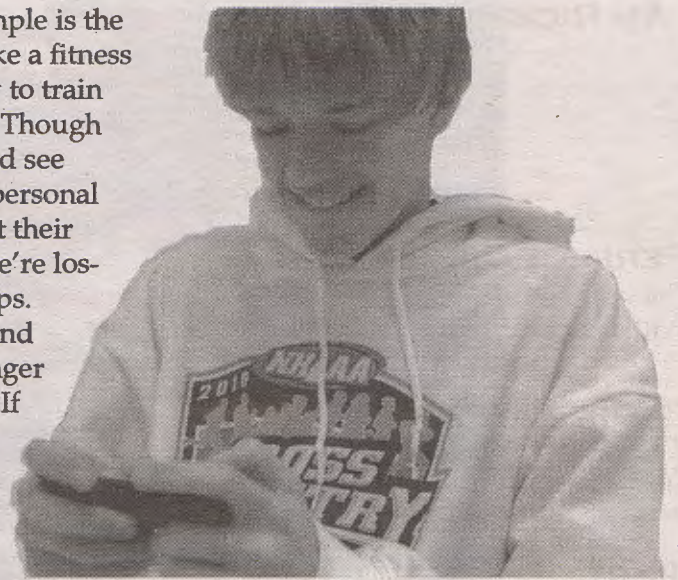
There's an App for almost anything now a days: Apps to make life easier, Apps to keep us amused and Apps that are good for absolutely nothing. Apps have obviously had a huge effect on the human population over the past two years, but have they left too much of an impact?

If there's one thing that Apps are advocating for, it's to make our life more self-

Ah yes, the App. Something known to not only iTouch, iPhone and iPad users, but to Smartphone users as well. One App or another

sufficient and effortless. A good example is the "Couch to 5K" App. This App acts like a fitness trainer and will instruct the user how to train for a 5K race in a set amount of time. Though many people will look at this App and see the benefits, like saving money on a personal trainer or having the App available at their home, we lose sight of the fact that we're losing human interaction with these Apps. Apps like "Google Maps" help you find your way anywhere, so there's no longer a need to stop and ask for directions. If you're looking for somewhere new and hip to eat at: don't go and ask your friends, there's an App for even that! No one can argue with the fact that these Apps have at least made someone's life simpler, but is it possible people are

Junior Chris Olivier, gets his game face on while playing "Robot Unicorn Attack".



Nuture. Praise. Succeed.
As demonstrated by Junior, Kyla McCabe-Corow

looking past the fact that life is getting too simple?

When Junior Graham Beaton, owner of an iPhone, reflects upon his Apps he doesn't see them as making life too easy. "They're making life convenient," he says. He argues that he only uses his Apps when he has absolutely nothing else

to do. "I use them when I'm traveling or waiting for something," says Beaton, "I'd never use them at my house."

Senior Gubby Noronha has an iPod touch but claims that he uses it very rarely. "I don't really use most of the Apps I have on here," admits Noronha. Noronha thinks that most Apps are useless, "I think that people should rely on themselves more," he says. "Most Apps are just a waste of time."

However, not everyone agrees with this argument. ORHS English teacher, Shauna Horsley claims that her Apps are actually helping her out. "There's this grocery App that makes shopping lists and finds coupons for you," says Horsley. "I'm such a mom," Horsley laughs to herself. Still, Horsley doesn't think that Apps are actually making life easier, "It's making my life more complicated!" says Horsley. "Apps give me more to do which makes my life complicated, but I still find many useful." Overall, almost everyone can agree that they've used both useful and totally pointless Apps at least once in their lives. Over the past 2 years, Apps have evolved from just Notepads and Calculators to games and Police Radio Scanners. Apps will keep evolving along with the people who use them.

WEIRDEST APPS

DATE CHECK

Creep on all your dates by typing in their addresses. Get info on criminal records, details about their personal assets (including property) and personal info, like whether they still live with the 'rents. This App is free so even though you may feel like the biggest creeper in the world, you know you want to get it.

SASAME KISSCOMI

An App which is most popular in Japan, Sasame Kisscomi is an interactive App which you kiss the screen and you get a rating on your kiss by a person on the screen. This is possibly the worst Japanese invention for society since Karaoke.

PIMPLE POPPER

The title says it all. Ew.

CONTROVERSIAL APPS

BABY SHAKER

This App was taken off the App store a few hours after it was released. It featured a baby on the screen, the user would then shake their device in as little time as possible until the baby died.



The iTouch. Notorious for its sleek glamour shot.
Photo courtesy of Google.

ISNORT

This App simulates snorting a line of cocaine. This App hasn't been banned from the App store.

I AM RICH

The I Am Rich App was only available for about a day but all this App really was, was just a red gem lit up on the screen. So why was it so controversial? It costs a steep \$999.99, hence the name.

POINTLESS APPS

PERFECT CIRCLE

The user of this App draws a circle on the screen and the circle is rated on a scale of 1 to 1,000. Waste of time for humans, great practice for math teachers.

BUBBLE WRAP

A favorite App among many people, Bubble Wrap is just a bunch of bubble wrap on the screen, waiting for someone to pop it. Fun but completely pointless.

IFART






Listening to farts come from your iPod? I've only met one person who actually admits to liking this App. Bridget Regan.

MEDIAL POETRY

This App gives the user fake medical terms to diagnose friends and family. Though what you're saying wont make any sense to a real doctor, you'll sound like a medical genius to you peers.






TOP 5 APPS ACCORDING TO OYSTER RIVER

**MRS. HORSLEY-
ENGLISH TEACHER**

-  Google Maps
-  Pandora
-  Crossword
-  Fandango
-  Step Track ("for when I run")








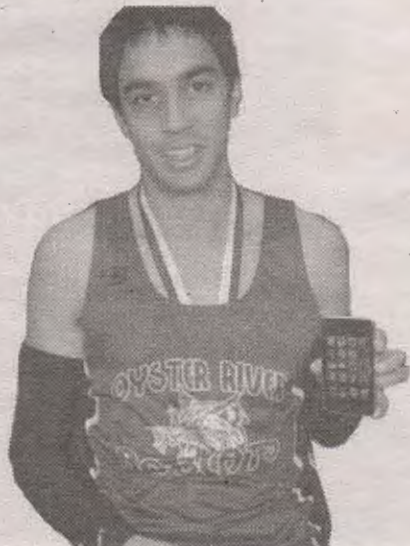
**GRAHAM BEATON-
JUNIOR**

-  Angry Birds
-  Fruit Ninja
-  Unit Converter
-  Facebook
-  Lux Touch



**GUBBY NORONHA-
SENIOR**

-  Facebook
-  Mail
-  Google Maps
-  Notes
-  Dog Whistle



**HAYLEY POFF-
FRESHMAN**

-  Doodle Jump
-  Paper Toss
-  Solitaire
-  iHeart Radio
-  Pandora



All App Icons courtesy of Google



Emily Dube
Features Writer

THE FACEBOOK PHENOMENON

Fake fingernails flying everywhere, hair whipping and incomprehensible screams. This, my friends, is your classic girl fight. Notifications littering your screen and insults flying, this is the modern girl fight; a Facebook War.

What is a Facebook War? Typically it starts with some sort of demeaning or offensive wall post or status and then quickly escalates with retaliation from the original victim. Many times, what started as a few hateful words turns into an issue that affects the individuals in every aspect of their lives; including school. To ORHS Assistant Principal Sara Wotton, this is just a new tool for an old issue. "Unfortunately, I've had to deal with that stuff but it's just more of the same in a different form," says Wotton.

A classic example of a Facebook War lies in an incident at "Light Up Durham 2009". A senior at ORHS was seen carrying around a firearm, and arrested on the scene. Later that night, he posted something on Facebook, explaining what had happened. This was all fine until another student decided to make a critical comment on the post. What began as an explanation of a story quickly morphed into words flying back and forth and a completely unnecessary argument.

One of the biggest problems with Facebook is not the arguments or "Wars" that begin on it but the fact that it's broadcast for everyone to see. "On Facebook, you can put something out there and broadcast it. It's not just words that disappear. Telling someone to be the bigger person and ignore it is a lot harder," says Wotton.

Although the majority of cyber-bullying cases come from Facebook, does that mean that Facebook truly is the problem? Or is it just another medium for this bullying to take place? And what are the other effects of Facebook? To answer these lingering questions, I went to the student body. "It's just so darn distracting," says Senior Geoff Lee. "Every time I hear that little pop, I just have to check my chat message and then bam. Another hour of homework time is gone." Seniors Bridget Regan and Emma True have a similar problem, as well as the solution. "I needed to get my college stuff done," says Senior Emma True. "So Bridget [Regan] and I traded passwords, then changed each others' and deactivated our Facebooks. I'm almost done with college applications, and Bridget is almost done with her online class, so it's been good."

Although Facebook offers you hours of entertainment and even occasionally aids in the educational process (my Spanish class has a Facebook thread...), it gives people the power to not only demean and insult others in a way that you just can't escape, and gives people a way to procrastinate from their schoolwork. Do not get me wrong, I love my Facebook, but the world needs to find a balance between kidding and mean. Between socializing and flat out procrastinating.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Facebook has over 350 million active users
- More than 2.5 billion pictures are uploaded to Facebook each month
- Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg is worth 1.5 billion dollars
- Syria, China, Iran and Vietnam have banned Facebook
- 70% of Facebook users are from outside the United States
- Facebook's fastest growing demographic is women age 55 and older
- In the US, on 54.7% of people ages 13-17 have a Facebook

Love-Hate Relationship; the things that I love about Facebook, and the things I hate.

Love: Pictures! There are no words to accurately describe the benefits of pictures. As Megan McGregor says, you can "creep-in-touch" with so many people!

Hate: Statuses. When you are constantly updating your status, all that you are really doing is clogging up my news feed with things I don't actually care about. Although I do appreciate the statuses with updates on your life, I don't care about your song lyrics. Don't take that wrong way, I'm just a little annoyed with it all.

Love: Video Wall Posts! They're fun, they're festive, and even when they have nothing to do with you, they are fun to watch. They throw an exciting twist into reading people's "Wall to Wall".

Hate: Checking-in. Do I really need to know that you have now left Gloria Jeans, and made it to the Gap? I mean, I can understand checking in say, in China and then Hawaii, but really? Is this actually necessary? Answer is no.



Senior Leah Janelle Procrastinates on Facebook in the library



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

DID YOU KNOW? The Library of Congress is going to catalog every public "tweet" on the popular social networking site Twitter dating back to March 2006.

STAFF FEATURE: THE CUSTODIANS



Katie Burzon
Features Writer

Everyone can recognize them, the men and women sporting the blue faculty shirts.

They are the Oyster River High School custodians.

Whether you see one of them in the cafeteria after lunch or in the gym after your sports practice, the custodians are always around.

The custodians work in three shifts, the first shift spans from 6:00am -2:30pm, the second shift spans from 1:30pm - 10:00pm, and the

ing and repairing motorcycles and woodworking. So, I'm sure your wondering if Marek Filip has some crazy secret past activity that we should all know about? Well he does! "I was a professional ski jumper" admits Filip.

Bennet Ball and

Barbara Dirsa are two of the custodians who share the 3rd shift. "The shift begins late in the evening and ends in the early morning. When most of NH is sleeping!" laughs Ball.

"I transferred from ORMS to ORHS when the position here opened up," says Ball. "Before ORMS, I worked at Boston English High School" Ball says that the biggest difference between ORHS and the past schools he's worked at was that "The educational opportunities are far greater at Oyster River Middle and High School than Boston English High School."

Ball's job is to maintain the maintenance complex and clean certain parts of ORHS. "Learning the safety operational guidelines of all the equipment in the school was the weirdest experience I've had here," says Ball.

In his earlier years, Ball was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama but grew up in Dorchester and Roxbury, Massachusetts. Before becoming a custodian, Ball served for 24 years in the United States Air Force, served in the Vietnam conflict, the Cold War and the Gulf War.

In his personal time, Ball enjoys collecting coins. "I collect all sorts of coins," Ball explains, "Old, new and some from foreign countries." He also enjoys collecting vintage automobiles, like Hot Wheels and match box series.

Barbara Dirsa also works the 3rd shift. She can often be seen in the athletic section of the school, like the gym and also the music room, during the later hours of the day. "I also write up work orders for repairs as needed." Dirsa says, of her responsibilities in the high school.

Dirsa grew up locally, in Brentwood, NH. "I graduated from Exeter High School." Recalls Dirsa. Before coming to ORHS, Dirsa worked at UNH. "I worked at UNH and did some custodial work," says Dirsa, "but I also took some college courses



From left to right: Ben Ball, Barbara Dirsa and Marek Filip

in computers and business management."

"I moved to ORHS because I wanted to change my work environment," explains Dirsa. "There's not that big of a difference though." Dirsa states that her favorite part of working here is the physical activity she gets while she works.

In her free time, Dirsa enjoys reading, cooking, hiking, traveling and attending art and craft fairs in the area. "I also like to take educational day trips around New England," she says.

The one thing Dirsa wants



Dirsa "enjoys going to art and craft fairs" in her free time.

people to know about her is that she's a humanitarian. "I care about the environment and animals," says Dirsa. "I take pride in my work and I feel good about contributing to make ORHS a clean, safe environment for students and staff."

The ORHS custodians are just as big a part of the community as the teachers and students. Ball admits that he loves being in the community. "My favorite part of working here is being involved in the molding process of our future leaders of society." So next time you see any custodian around the school, take a second to say hi or even ask about their past.

You're guaranteed to get an awe-inspiring story.



Marek Filip takes his custodial duties very seriously.

third shift is during the hours of 6:00pm - 2:30am. All of the custodians are friendly and nice people to get to know, but for this staff feature we selected three.

Marek Filip normally works the 2nd shift. Filip is the head custodian "I'm responsible for janitorial duties plus overlooking the other custodians in the building," says Filip. "I also foresee that all events are set up." He can be seen around the school and setting up chairs and tables for events like the language festivals and sports events.

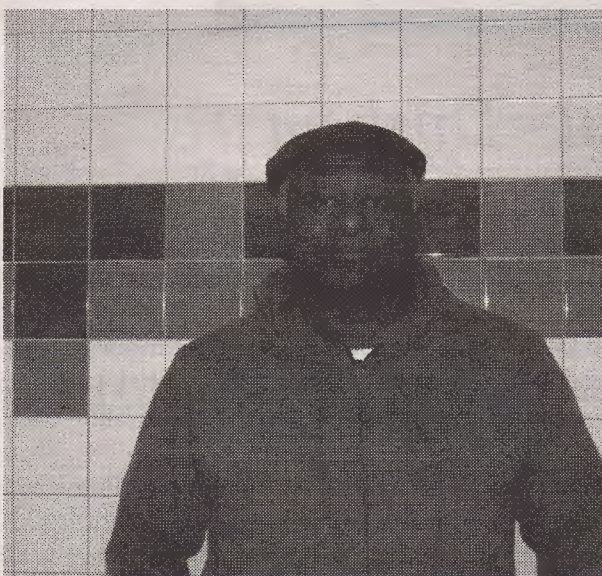
Filip grew up in Czech Republic, Europe. Before coming to Oyster River High School, Filip was a head chef and restaurant manager in Europe. Even before that he was a part of the



Filip was a professional ski jumper between the years 1984 and 1994!

Czech army. "I applied to ORHS after a friend saw an ad in the paper," says Filip, "I lived in Durham at the time so it was convenient." Filip worked at Mastway before coming to the high school and he states that the biggest difference was the school was smaller and the students were younger.

During his personal time, Filip enjoys build-



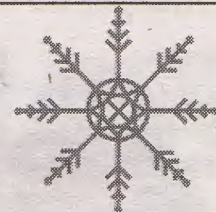
Ben Ball can always be spotted with a smile on his face.

The average shopper walks about 5 miles searching for Christmas gifts.



Brenna Cahill
Features Writer

IT'S WINTER TIME AND THE SLEDDING IS FINE



To some, winter is all about sipping down creamy hot chocolate in front of a roaring fireplace, or snuggling with a loved in the warmth of your home. While for others, winter takes on a different role.

"The wind in your hair, the cold air brushing your face as you rush down the slope," is how Sophomore, Rebecca Taylor describes the thrill of sledding. Now longer is sledding just for your younger siblings. High school students all over are raving about the excitement of a great day of sledding. Senior, Spencer Wyand explains that "if I could go sledding everyday, I would!"

Below is a list of the best sledding spots around the Durham area. But many people find the experience of sledding at home

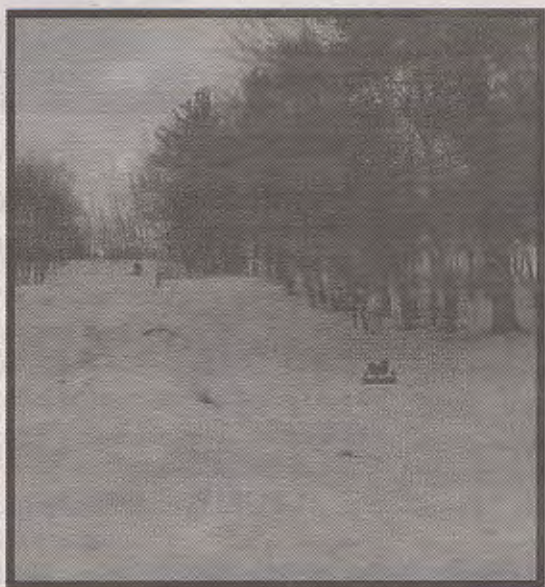
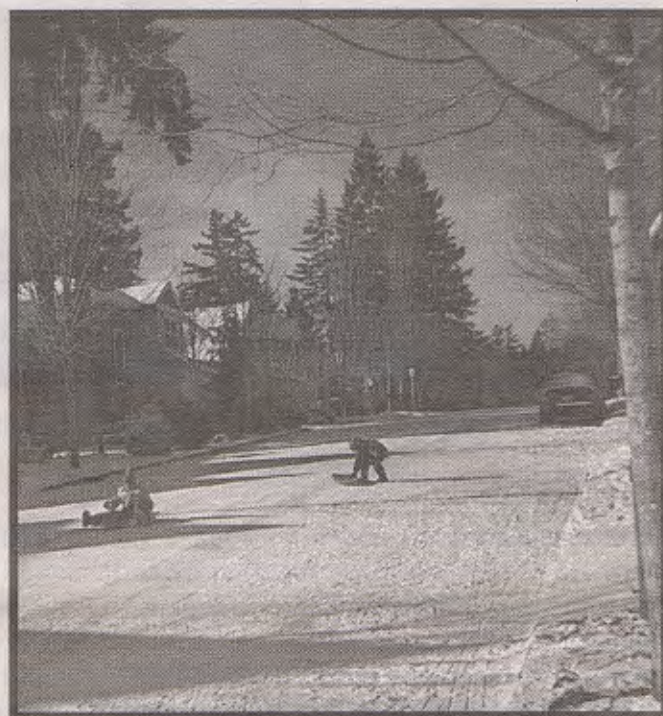
in their own backyards priceless. Oyster River High School Physical Education teacher, John Morin, enjoys staying close to home for a day of fantastic sledding. "I made a huge sledding hill in our yard for the kids," boasts Morin, "everyone comes over and has a great time." The Morin's homemade hill is far from mundane. Morin describes a typical run down his hill, "we have saucers so I take them and I whip them around so they are going down and spinning, all at once." Morin goes on to add that "no one has vomited yet, but I am working on it."

If constructing your own sledding hill is not in your future, you may want to consider a favorite past time of Senior, Andrew Sullivan. He wildly suggests that the best sledding is when "you have to go in the woods and weave around trees!" Although this method of sledding is rather dangerous, it will definitely provide the extreme excitement some are looking for.

Hoitt Hill - Faculty Neighborhood

Right near the center of Durham is a track that is not for the faint of heart. Not only will you be sledding down a steep pitch of icy asphalt, but you will also be heading straight into oncoming traffic. Faculty resident and Oyster River High School senior, Megan McGregor, warns thrill riders to "have someone at the bottom stand in the middle of the road to keep an eye out for cars." McGregor has a firsthand experience with this daring hill, she recalls one time when she "had to bail out into the woods on the side of Hoitt to avoid a car."

Hoitt Hill does not offer any prime parking, but when there is a will, there is a way. If you are not one to take risks and sled down a traitorous slope into potential danger, Hoitt is not for you. It may be recommended that you walked down Faculty a few hundred feet and enjoy.



Garrison Hill - Dover

A short drive to Dover along Central Ave. will bring you to this 45 degree snowy slope. This sledding area is conveniently located just before Wentworth-Douglass Hospital. Garrison Hill offers around 600 feet of smooth and bumpy terrain, that an entire family can enjoy. Sophomore, Jasmine Buckley sighs when sharing that she enjoys "the going down part, but not the walking up part." Thankfully, this unique hill has quite the solution for that common sledding grievance—a TOW ROPE. Yes, at Garrison Hill you can savor the thrill and then relax on your way back up to the top.

Wagon Hill - Durham

On the way out of Durham, on Route 4, right past Emery Farm sits a 300 foot ride down a 30 degree slope, perfect for any family. Junior, Averie Chandler's favorite part about sledding at Wagon Hill is "the weird bump in the middle." The hill is very accessible with relatively good parking, but can become quite crowded on a beautiful weekend, after a heavy snowfall. With crowds comes danger; the more people that arrive at this desired sledding spot, the higher your risk of getting demolished by a fellow sledder as they fly down the hill while you struggle your way back to the top.

There is a historic wagon perched on the top of the hill which lent itself to the name and becomes a wonderful background for photos. Not only does Wagon Hill provide a sledding hill but they also have walking trails, 'bring-your-own' cross-country skiing, and a view of Great Bay.



All photos courtesy of Google Images

TEACH ME HOW TO DOUGIE



Megan McGregor
Guest Writer

Similar to the way New Boyz brought "Jerkin'" in 2009, the hit group Cali Swag District brought the "Dougie" to all of us in October, 2010. The original version of the Dougie started out in Dallas, Texas as a song called the "D-Town Boogie." Although the Dougie has been compared to the Jerk, Cali Swag District has attempted to separate themselves from the Jerk movement. While "Jerkin'" only involves "snapping", the Dougie includes a casual shoulder lean and elbow twist.



Photo courtesy of Google Images...

Ready? I'm going to teach you how to do the Dougie, the Cali Swag way. Get ready!

Step 1
Leanin' Side-to-Side: Bend your knees a little bit and move left to right.

Left, right, left right, left, left and right HEY!



Step 2
Put your arms into it- Get your arms up, in the driving position. Move them right to left, like you are steering a car

...Alright, that's the basics. Now you got to get your arms into it.



Step 3

Add some Dougie fresh: This is the signature move, the reason why "the Dougie" got its name. Comb the side of your head. In motion with your stepping, left, right, left, right, left, left, right.



Step 4
Legs+Arms+Dougie: Combine all three steps in a faster motion. Start slower and pick it up. Staying to the beat of the song; that is how the Dougie comes alive!



For visual aid, check out the YouTube video link below.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJxYilfr4WM>



Even Washington Wizards basketball player John Wall likes to Dougie. Walls (left) enters the game Dougie-ing fashionably.

Photo courtesy of Google Images...

...for da dudes who don't know me...

Oodles of Doodles of Oyster River!

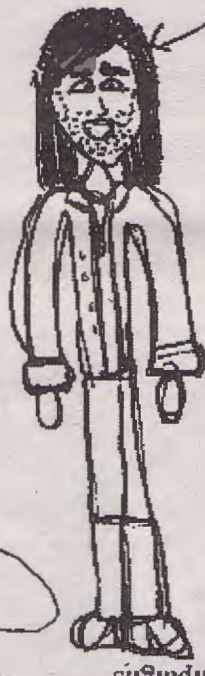
"With Respect for Klee"
-Mr. Lawrence



-Jeff Johnson



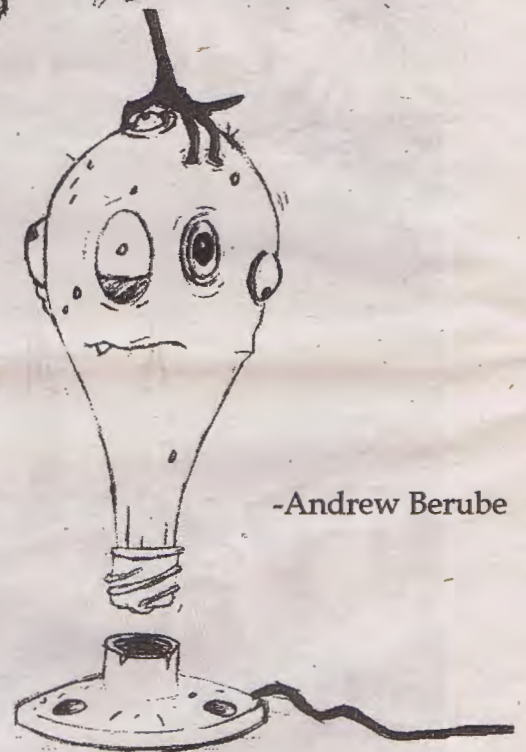
"Cahtzzz"
-Bridget Regan and Annah Todd



"Woman to Man"
-Katie Burzon

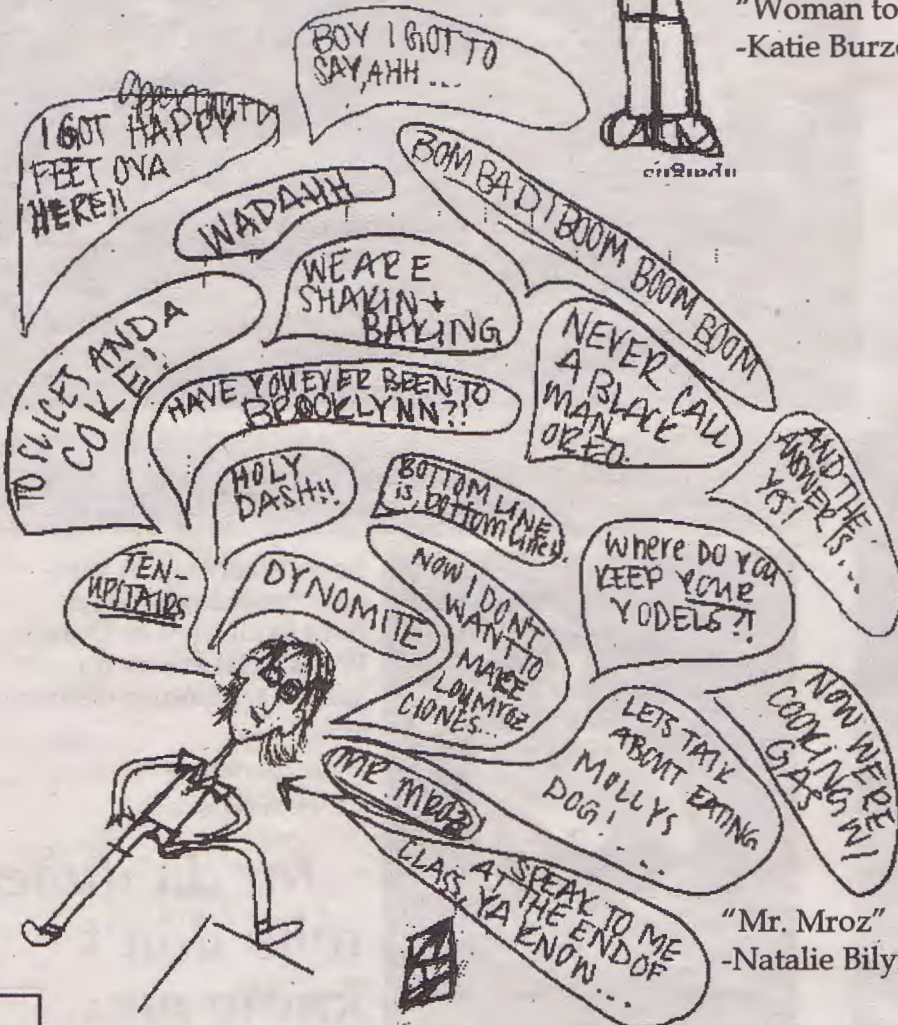


-Logan Miller



-Andrew Berube

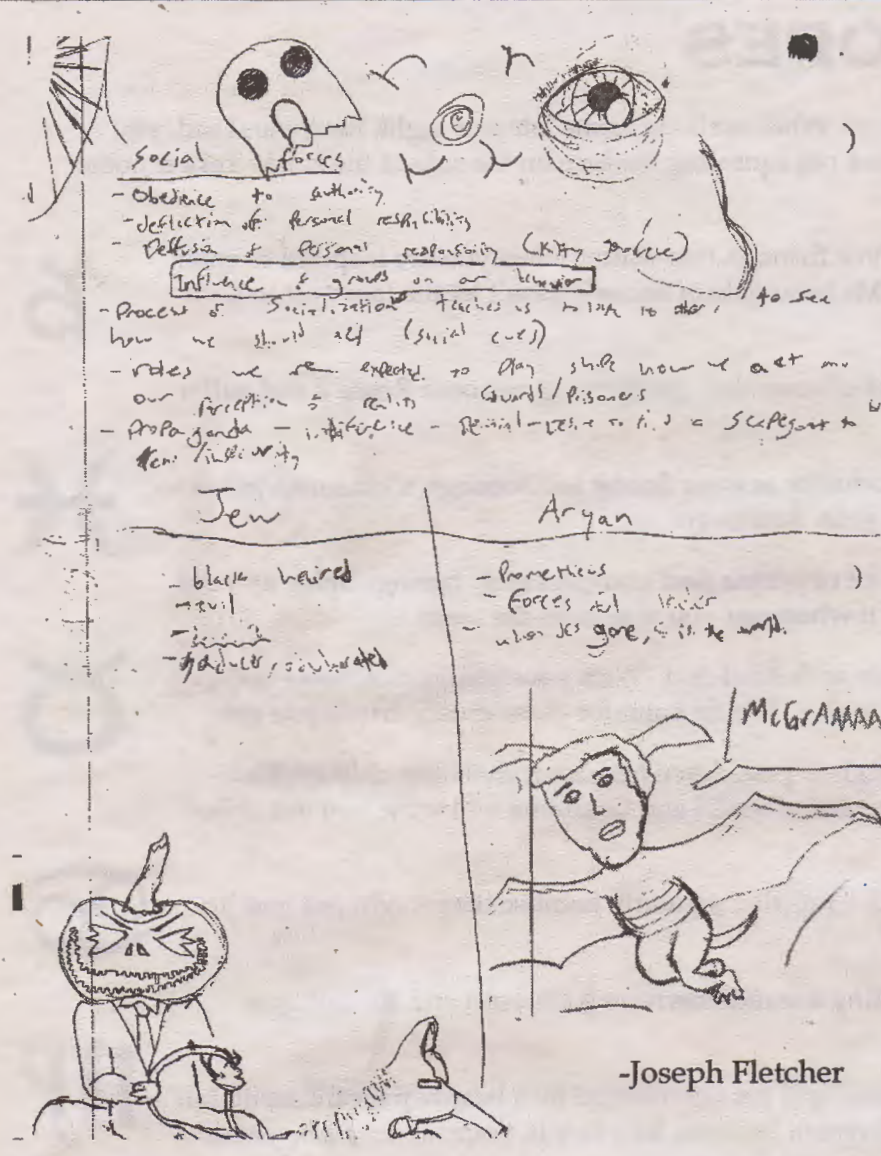
Mr. Mroz



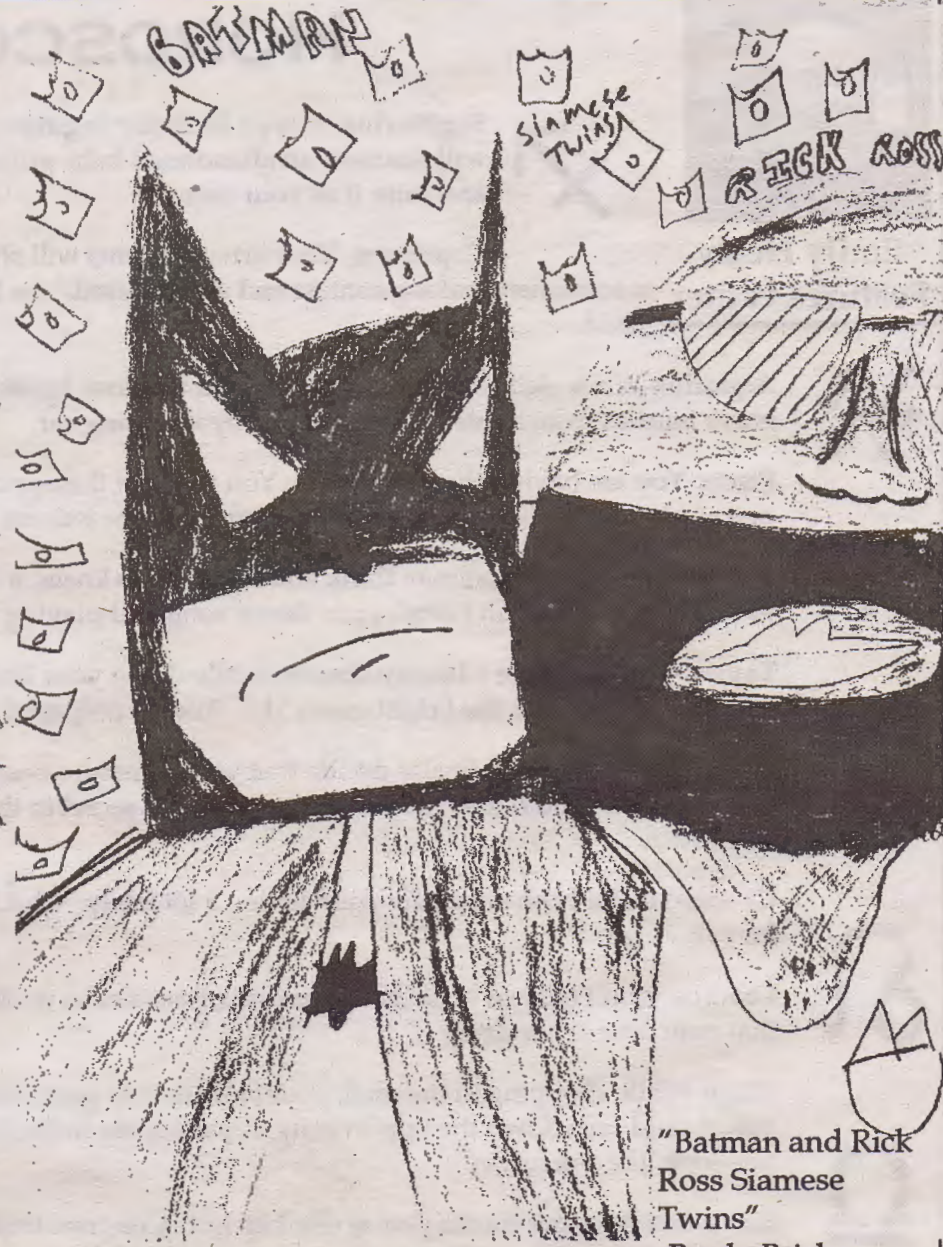
"Mr. Mroz"
-Natalie Bilynsky



-Austin Alphonse



-Joseph Fletcher



"Batman and Rick Ross Siamese Twins"
-Brady Brickner-Wood

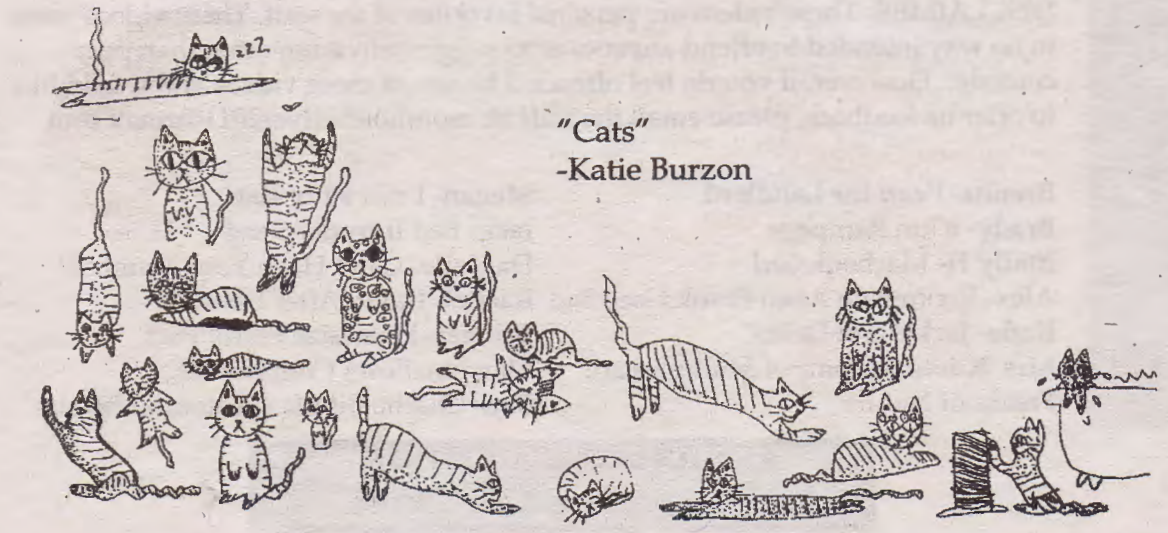


"Howling Elk"
-Mr. Lawrence



"Horse Deer Dog Cow: Dorseow"
-Annah Todd

"Random Thoughts During a Staff Meeting"
-Ms. Rosi



"Cats"
-Katie Burzon





Emily Healy
Features Writer

HOROSCOPES



Sagittarius- Happy Birthday Sagittarius! While walking home late one night, lonely and sad, you will discover an abandoned baby guinea pig squealing for love on the side of the road. Take it home and raise it as your own.

Capricorn- Your artistic talents will shine through this winter when you are inspired to enter a snowman-making contest and are declared "the Michelangelo of Snow". Don't let the fame get to your head.



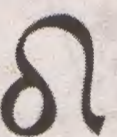
Aquarius- While sledding at Wagon Hill, you will lose control of your sled, go spinning out onto Route 4 and suffer grave injuries from almost being crushed by a passing car.



Pisces- You are having the best month. You may get the opportunity to wear Bobby McDonough's letterman jacket to one of his games. Beware of sabotage from all of the jealous girls. And boys.



Aries- Even though you may think you're the bee's knees, a lot of people find you extremely boring. Spice up your life by making "S-Club Party" your theme song and playing it whenever you walk into the room.



Taurus- You will have a beauty disaster while dying your hurr with Kool-Aid. With your confidence, however, you'll be able to rock the bright green 'do. And be prepared with a little lip balm for those crusty-crusts you got.



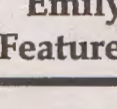
Gemini- Grandma will finally decide that you're mature enough to pass down her secret chocolate chip cookie recipe to you. You'll lose the recipe, exposing the secret to the entire world and Grandma will write you out of her will. Ouch.



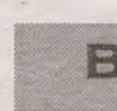
Cancer- You've been annoying your sibling a lot lately. Check Craigslist regularly because they might put you up for sale.



Leo- You won't believe your luck when you meet Ke\$ha walking around downtown Durham and she tells you that your love is her drug.

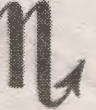
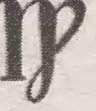
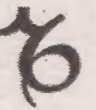


Virgo- While shopping in the mall, your ridiculously great looks will get you noticed by a beauty pageant scout, but you should turn down the opportunity to participate in the pageant because, let's face it, your model walk makes you look like a penguin.



Libra- Ben Belanger thinks you're smokin' hot. Congratulations.

Scorpio- Throughout the month of December, your forgetfulness will constantly leave you in a state of panic as all your left shoes begin disappearing. Ask Ned Clark for help finding them.



YOUTUBE PICKS FOR THE AGES...



Emily Dube
Features Writer

When YouTube was first launched in 2005, it was just a small site for uploading and streaming videos. Now, it has exploded into something much more than that. With over 2 billion views per day, YouTube is a tool used in all aspects of life: political, social and economic. Since YouTube is such a giant site, the MOR staff thought it might be helpful (or at least fun) to recommend their top YouTube videos. I myself have included my top five, along with my all-time favorite, and the staff's favorite YouTube user.

BEST YOUTUBE USER EVER: doglover199709

To be perfectly honest with you all, this girl is AWESOME. Not only does she have endless amounts of the confidence that many of us lack, but there are a million parodies of her videos! If you don't believe me, search "doglover disturbia" on YouTube. You know what they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery!

BEST YOUTUBE VIDEO EVER:



Marcel the Shell with Shoes on

Photo Courtesy of Facebook

MY FAVE FIVE!

1. Willow Smith "Whip My Hair"
2. Middy Kid
3. Scarlet Takes a Tumble
4. My Pushup Bra Will Help Me Get My Man
5. Ultimate Lax Bro

STAFF FAVORITES!

DISCLAIMER: These videos are personal favorites of the staff. These videos were in no way intended to offend anyone, or to suggest anything other than pure comedy. However, if you do feel offended by any of these videos and would like to offer us feedback, please email the staff at: mouthoftheriver2011@gmail.com

Brenna- Pearl the Landlord

Brady- iGun Rampage

Emily H- Macbook Girl

Alex- Roommate Alien Prank Goes Bad

Katie- Jackie and Debra

Mrs. Kucera- Moms of Multiples are Freaks of Nature

Megan- I'm a Kitty Kat

Jack- Bed Intruder Song

Danielle- Can I Have Your Number?

Rachel- David After Dentist

Bridget- Homestar Fluffy Puff

Marshmallows Commercial

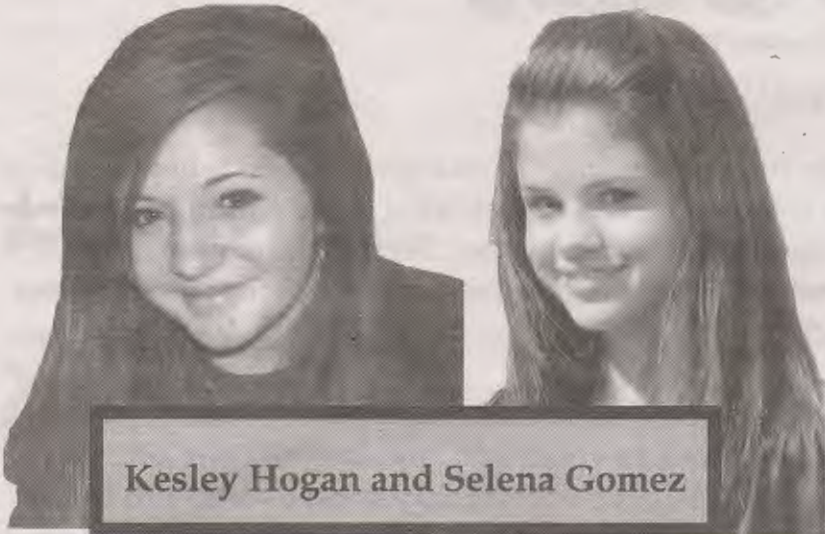
Ben- Charlie Bit Me - Autotune Remix

HONORABLE MENTION:

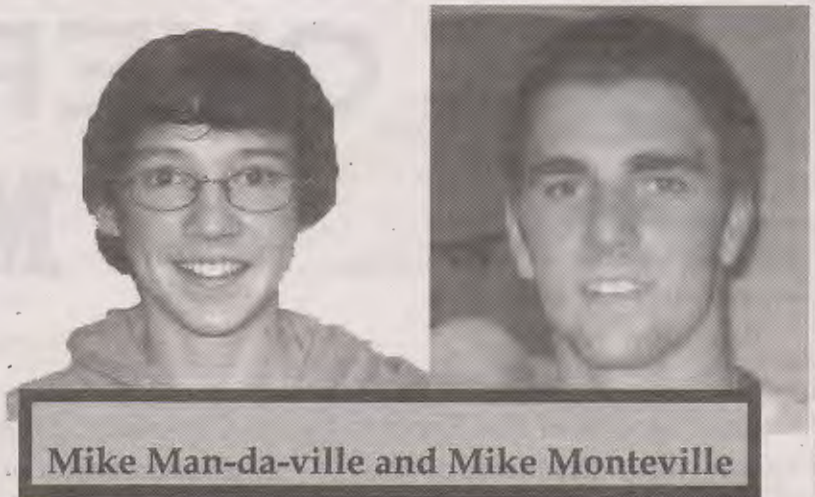
How to Wrap a Cat for Christmas

OYSTER RIVER LOOK-A-LIKES!

Courtesy of the Features Staff



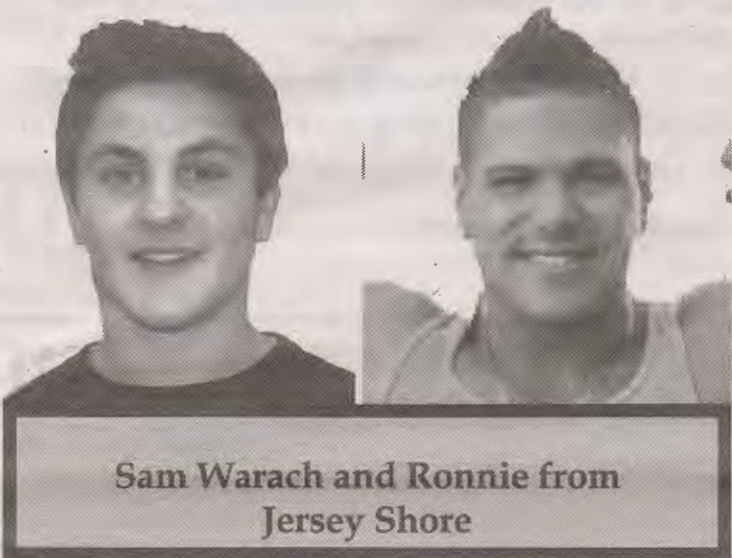
Kesley Hogan and Selena Gomez



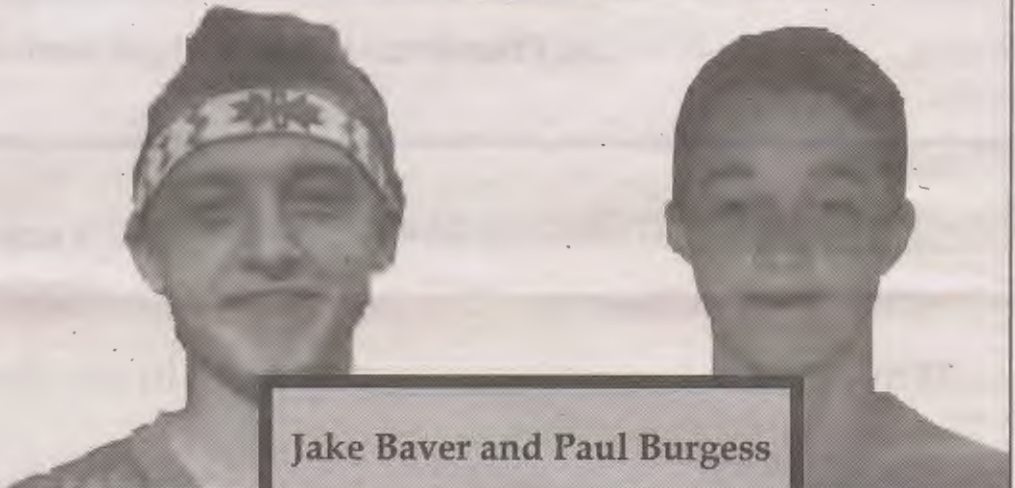
Mike Man-da-ville and Mike Monteville



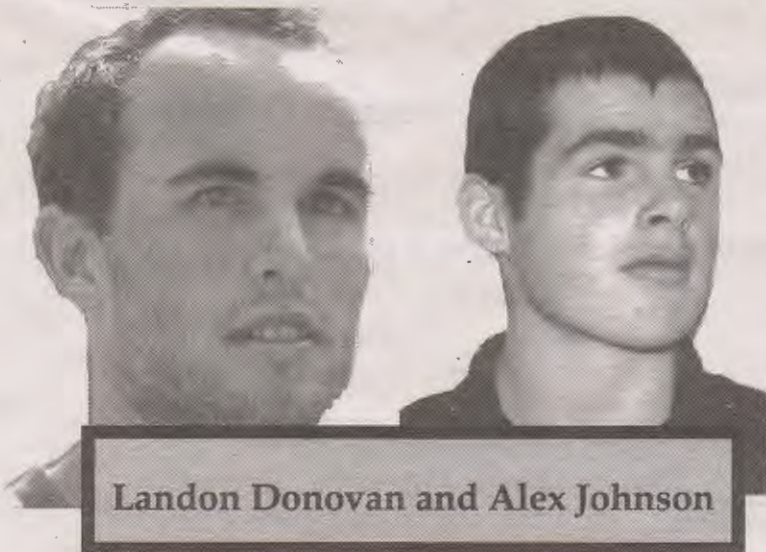
Mrs. Pearce and Ben Bakman



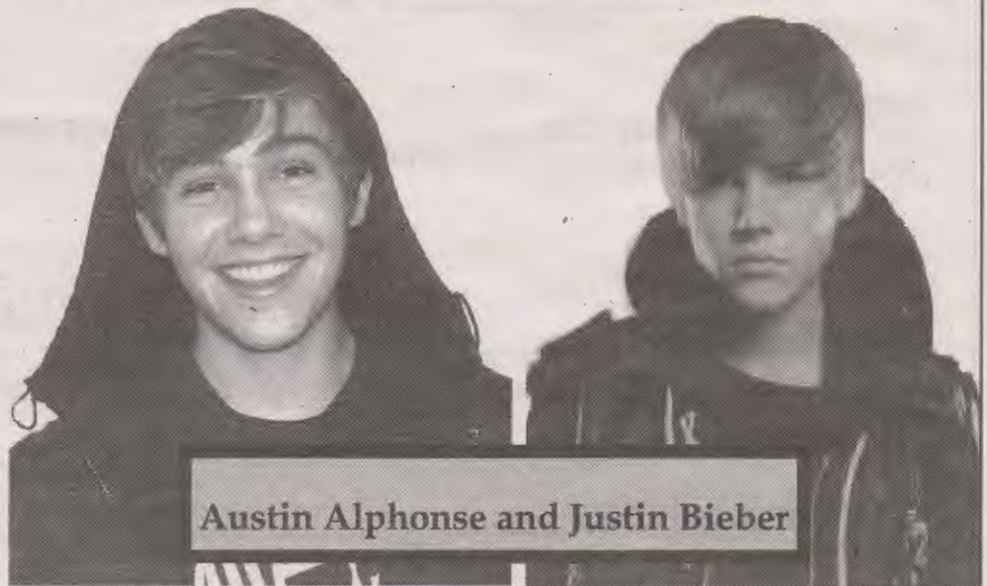
Sam Warach and Ronnie from
Jersey Shore



Jake Bayer and Paul Burgess



Landon Donovan and Alex Johnson



Austin Alphonse and Justin Bieber



Joeseeph Fletcher and Dan Hart



Megan Comeau and Ke\$ha

Celebrity Images courtesy of Google Images

Americans buy 37.1 million real Christmas trees each year



Brenna Cahill
Features Writer

OVERHEARDS!

MAD LIBS

World's Greatest Word Game

Courtesy of Google Images

Since **Mouth of the River** is a school sponsored newspaper, the content is subject to change based on what the administration deems appropriate. Our latest batch of *Overheards* were a little racier than what some would have liked, therefore they went onto the chopping block. Thankfully, a brilliant MOR staff member, Eryn Daly, conjured up the idea to eliminate the scandalous words that pushed the *Overheards* off the scale. She then suggested that these blanks be filled in by our avid readers, according to which part of speech was removed. Thus the glorious new style of *Overheards* was born-- MAD LIB Overheards.

Here's how you play. Read over the sentence as is, and think to yourself, "self, I sure could put something great on that blank line." If you cannot come up with something on your own, look to your right, and look to your left. Do you have a friend around? Find one, then say, "How you doin', guy? Help me out with my superb MAD LIB Overheards." Your acquaintance will gladly comply and help you scheme up the perfect word. Once you come up with that one exceptional word that corresponds with the type of speech noted in the parentheses, pencil (or pen if you prefer) that bad boy in. Repeat these simple steps until your MAD LIB Overheards are complete.

Do you think you have the funniest or most creative rendition of these MAD LIB Overheards possible? MOR will be the judge. Submit a copy (or just cut out this section) to Mrs. Kucera (MOR adviser), drop your Overheards off in room T106, or email your version to Mouthoftheriver2011@gmail.com. Good luck, and let the MAD LIB-ing begin!

1st Place Prize is a DHOP gift card and candy! Yummmm!

"_____ it like you like it." -Kevin Morse
(verb)

"I enjoy fooling around with _____." -Spencer Wyand
(noun)

"I'm going to _____ your skull in and then pour _____ in it." -Mr. OC
(verb) (noun)

"I can't _____ a guy that thinks I'm a _____." -Andrea Belaidi
(verb) (noun)

"LAN parties are like _____ they happen once a month, expect guys enjoy them." -Xander Bahl
(plural noun)

"Don't touch my _____, touch my baby." -Mr. OC
(noun)

"Natalie, you should not have been born _____." -Mrs. Horsely
(adjective)

"Me and Bakman _____ together all the time." -Chance Dippold
(verb) (plural noun)

"Me, no _____, ever." -Xander Bahl
(plural noun)

"Have you ever put Icy Hot on your _____?" -Jeff Johnson
(noun)

"Leave the women _____ alone, they can't help themselves." -Mr. Whalen
(plural noun)

"That's why you wear a(n) _____; people can't see you sweat." -Marty Thornton
(noun)

December						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				9 Last Day of Hanukkah UNH Women's Hockey vs Harvard 7:00pm Wit. Center Megan McGregor's 18th Birthday	10 Calling All Crows Benefit Show 8:00pm House of Blues The Believer-Common The First Flight- Wiz Khalifa	11 A Christmas Celtic Sojourn 2:00pm & 7:00pm Portsmouth Music Hall 2nd Annual Gingerbread Competition 11:00am-4:00pm UNH
12 The Met: Don Carlo (Verdi) 12:30pm Portsmouth Music Hall Season Finale of DEXTER	13 Birthdays Jamie Foxx (Actor) Ted Nugent (Guitarist)	14 Basic Instinct- Ciera All American Nightmare- Hinder	15 Early Release Athletic Council Dodge Ball Tournament 12:30pm (ORHS Gym)	16 Jersey Boys Colonial Theatre Boston The Nutcracker Portsmouth Music Hall 7:00pm	17 Jersey Boys Badfish- Tribute to Sublime 8:00pm House of Blues Nutcracker 7:00pm	18 Jersey Boys Nutcracker 10:00am 2:00pm 7:00pm
19 Jersey Boys Dweezil plays Zappa's 70th B-day Concert 8:00pm House of Blues	20 "Dreamgirls" opened on Broadway 1981	21 First Day of Winter Usher's OMG Tour 7:00pm TD Garden- Boston 2 years til our inevitable demise	22 In 1962, the 1 millionth NBA point was scored	23 "A Visit From St. Nicholas" was published in NY in 1823	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day
26 Kwanzaa begins Blue Man Group 11:00am Charles Play House Boston	27 UNH Men's Basketball vs. Vermont 7- 9pm	28 Birthdays Sienna Miller (Actress) Denzel Washington (Actor) Woodrow Wilson (28th President) Cedric Benson (Football Player)	29 Community Skate 4:30- 6:30pm Whitt. Center	30 Community Skate 4:30- 6:30pm Whitt. Center	31 Community Skate 4:30- 6:30pm Whitt. Center New Year's Eve	



Emily Dube
Features Writer

PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

In our last issue, I introduced you to some classic jokesters of the Junior Class, however, this issue I dove into my own senior class, in search of the people who mostly fly under the radar. These two people you are about to meet are pretty awesome, one of them is rumored to be related to Jesus, and the other rides a "Mountain Unicycle". That's right, I said mountain unicycle.

AYERA ELISCU

Nickname: At camp, I'm called Jesus
Favorite Activity: Walking and listening to music. I also like to do spontaneous hikes, I don't like to plan it

Weird/Unique Fact: I always end up wearing shoes that are too big...and I don't know why

Favorite Day of the Week: Friday, you get that great, "free" feeling

Favorite Holiday: Halloween

Coollest Thing You've ever Done: Went down an allegedly haunted path in the woods without a flashlight and by myself...



PALI
GELSOMINI

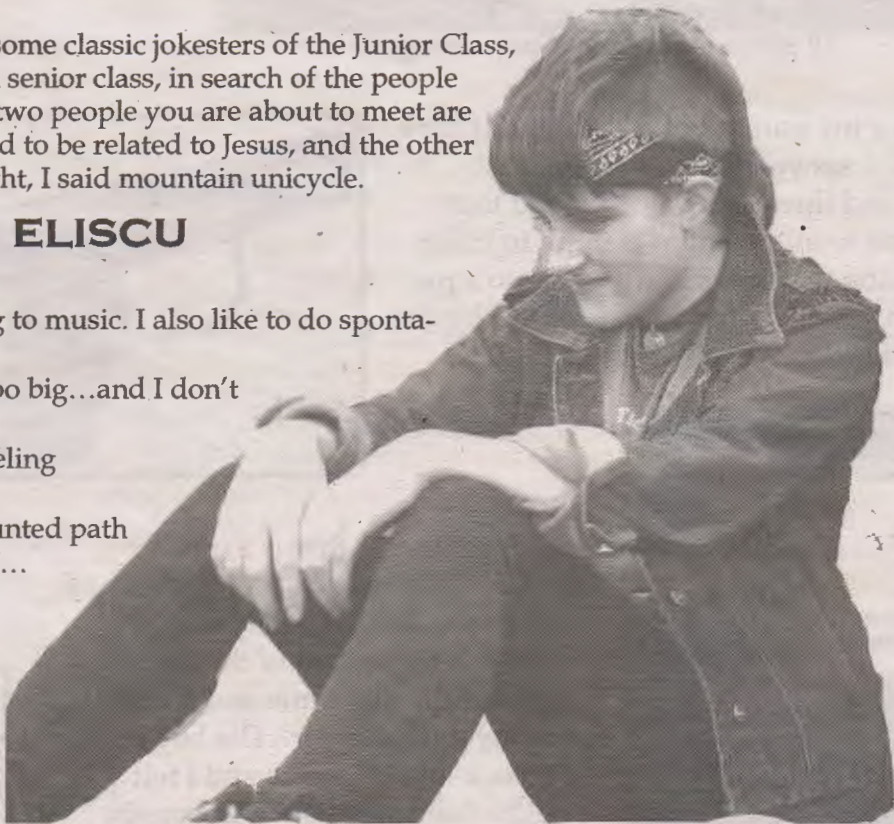
Nickname: I don't have one, my real name is Pali
Favorite Activity: Depends. In the winter, I ski and in the fall I mountain unicycle. But I don't like summer, it's too hot.

Weird/Unique Fact: I used to live in Switzerland, and I mountain unicycle

Favorite Day of the Week: Saturday, I don't have to do anything until Sunday.

Favorite Holiday: Thanksgiving because it's the only holiday that the whole family shows up for

Coollest Thing You've Ever Done: I climbed a pass in Switzerland that had snow deeper than you (Emily) are tall (and I'm 5' 9"...)



Photos Courtesy of Facebook

Nineteen people have died in the last 3 years believing that Christmas decorations were chocolate.



Brenna Cahill
Features Writer

CONFISCATION NATION

The confiscation of personal effects is highly controversial between school faculty members and students, all across the country.

The most common sentiment amongst students at Oyster River High School is that confiscating is not the answer. Sophomore, Derek Libby explains that the technique of confiscating items is "pretty outrageous." Libby thinks the faculty "should have a different penalty than taking your personal stuff."

As much as some may agree with Libby's opinion, Oyster River High School Chemistry Teacher, Jennifer Wainwright thinks differently. "I have taken cell phones in class before because it is really disruptive. As students, you are supposed to be on task," shares Wainwright.

Whether or not students agree or disagree with the method of confiscating personal items within schools, Oyster River Cooperative School District does. Since Oyster River High School is a public school, that means the administration has the power to take whatever they feel you should not have, or are being dis-

tracted by. There is no way to fight the power that the school possesses for this issue. By attending high school, you surrender most of your constitutional rights and begin to function under the law of the school – The Handbook.

To avoid having your personal items confiscated, familiarize yourself with the rules of the school. Under the 'Conduct' section of Oyster River High School's Handbook is the ruling on Electronic Devices/ Stereos. This is not the only section that should be read by all students to avoid trouble through confiscation, or any other means.

-Conduct-

Electronic Devices/ Stereos

"Electronic devices such as pagers and cellular phones are not allowed to be used during class time or in the library and should be turned off in these areas. The use of personal listening devices such as I-Pods should not interfere with the day-to-day operations of the school. Students who use them in such a manner that interferes with others will be expected to turn them in to a teacher or administrator upon request. Laser pens are not allowed on school grounds at any time. **Violation of this rule[ing] will result in confiscation of the device.**"

"After the Spirit Week Pep Rally, I confiscated one of those horrible vubba-kazoos, boo-boo-zelas, voo-voo-belas... whatever they're called. As big of a soccer fan as I am I'm not sure I could have survived the 2010 World Cup in South Africa!" - Maria Rosi (Art Department)



All photos courtesy of Google Images

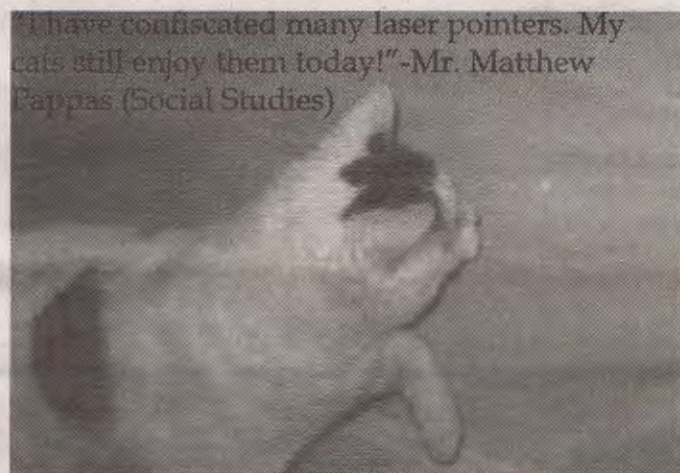
"I took a toy gun out of a kid's hands here at school, six years ago. I broke it into pieces and threw it away. It's odd that someone would be num enough to bring something that looks like a gun into a public high school." - Mr. John Morin (Physical Education)



"I don't confiscate things in class anymore... Years back I confiscated a hacky-sack, with the promise I'd give it back by the end of the day. The end of the day came and it was not in my desk drawer. The boy came back looking for it, and I felt so guilty that I went out and bought him a new one. I later found out it was the [same] boy who secretly took it from my desk. Now, with \$250 MP3 players, I would never take anything away from a student - it's just too much responsibility." - Mr. John Monahan (English)



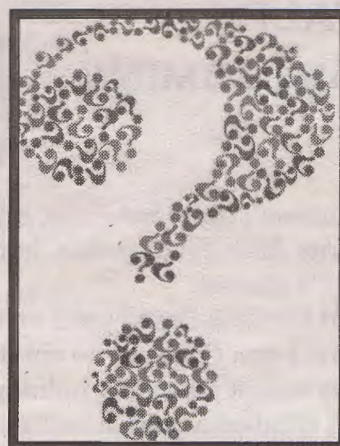
"I have confiscated many laser pointers. My cats still enjoy them today!" - Mr. Matthew Pappas (Social Studies)



Courtesy of Mr. Matthew Pappas



"At the end of the year we found two little baby dolls possessed in a locker. That was wierd." - Mrs. Laura Rogers (Principal)



"I pulled a huge, intricate [piece of unused paraphernalia] out of someone's backpack in an empty locker. It was a 'lost' backpack and I was trying to identify whose it was." - Mrs. Sue Miale (Administrative Assistant)

THE RANTS:

"IGNORANCE IS BLISS"



Ben Belanger
Editor-in-Chief

The rants are a tradition of grumpy people. Handed down from one grumpy person to another, it's a place where we can take solace in the fact that although everyone and everything in this world is horrible, at least we can talk about it. I'm proud to take over the legacy of the Rants. I can only hope that my undoubted grumpiness can hold its own when facing this idiotic and hopeless world.

A lot of things annoy me. Dogs barking annoy me; babies annoy me; curtains annoy me. Chances are you also annoy me in some way. It's fair to say that the phrase "ignorance is bliss" annoys me more than anything else in the world.

Ignorance is:
Frustrating.
Stupidity.
Hate.
Prejudice.
A general lack of knowledge.
Anything but bliss.

See, if I had the time and space required, I'd fully enjoy voicing my opinion about each and every form of ignorance that I find to be troublesome, but I'm going to whittle it down to ignorant censorship for this issue. I'll spell it out for you.

Censorship annoys me. The idea of censorship as a whole isn't that ridiculous and in many ways is actually intelligent. For instance, nudity - although I am fully for it - should probably be censored from young kids. Hearing my then 6-year-old brother walking around repeating the lyrics to one of the songs in my Eminem collection made me come to the realization that kids probably shouldn't be hearing swears too often, either. It's when censorship is taken to a new level - a level where an intelligent idea becomes ignorant - that I have a problem.

For the first time since I started writing for the newspaper, a large number of this issue's overheard were censored by the administration. My gut reaction was to be annoyed with Mrs. Rogers for chopping down some of our most hilarious and harmless overheard yet. You'll rarely find someone in the High School who

is highly offended by the word "party". Whether or not the word "period" should be censored by the FCC isn't a highly debated subject in the world. Quite frankly, I was offended that this was considered offensive.

The problem, I found, is not that the administration has a problem with these harmless quotes - which are taken fully out of context. The problem instead lies outside the school. Although the majority of readers are here at the high school, it is our responsibility to provide members of the community with an informative source of what's going on here at ORHS. I like knowing that my work is being read and talked about - it makes me feel like I've done well. It's when my work is being taken in ways that I had no intentions of and being made into something that it is not - something ignorant - that I come to question whether or not it is worth it to truly voice my opinion for others to see. For example, last year I wrote an article about a new athletic policy at the high school which was one of my favorite articles that I have ever written. I dubbed the piece "No More Nipples"; a title that I thought was clever and pretty hilarious. Mrs. Rogers received complaints about the title, as it referenced nipples. Did these people read the article? Probably not. A vital part of taking an educated side on a subject is to think through an idea fully before you vocalize that opinion. Take the time to see both points of view so you can accurately determine whether or not you have chosen the right side. Our overheard were not censored on the basis that they offended the administration, but instead because the administration has better things

to do than to deal with the complaints about reading the word "period" in the school newspaper. If you're an adult who is so offended

by the word "nipple" that you feel it necessary to send a complaint, then I (a 17 year old) suggest that you grow up.

NEXT!
"Pickles is my thing."

If anything - *anything in this world* - should be censored, it has got to be the MTV show Jersey Shore. The idea that people listen to Snooki about anything just honestly makes me question whether or not the world has any sort of intelligence left. When I found out that people were imitating Snooki - requesting her hairstyle at their hair salons, going tanning and actually attempting to live their lives like Snooki does - I had to hold back tears. If ignorance is bliss, these people have got to be some of the most blissful people on this planet. I'd be all for censoring every single word that comes out of this rat-like creature's mouth forever... but that'd be too smart.

Let's get stupid again for a second. The other day when I was in my car on my way home, the song "Toes" by the Zac Brown Band came on the radio. I LOVE THIS SONG. Well, the real one that is. The censored version is horrible. The lyrics "I'm gonna lay in the hot sun and roll a big fat one and grab my guitar and sing," were cut down to "I'm gonna lay in the hot sun and roll a..." followed by a few seconds of awkward silence and then "...one and grab my guitar and sing." You may be sitting there reading this, thinking that that is a pretty legitimate phrase to censor. I disagree. Here's where I find my problem; there are infinite potential meanings for "rolling a big fat one":

1. He could be making Pillsbury crescent rolls. The fat ones are better.
2. He could be playing with Play-Doh, building logs for his Play-Doh fireplace. Duh.

Well, you get the picture. Let your imagination go crazy. My point here is that anybody young enough to hear the words "roll a big fat one" and potentially be influenced by them is too young to understand what they mean. Once you hit the age where these words suddenly take on a new meaning for you and you really understand them, you're old enough to make your own decisions and therefore old enough to understand that others will choose a different path. At this point, if your 17-year-old son smokes pot, it's time to stop blaming the media for his choices and rather take responsibility for your lack of parenting.

You annoy me.

If you have any comments about this article, contact me directly at MouthoftheRiver2011@gmail.com



Jersey Shore's Snooki looking as stupid as ever with a pickle in her mouth.
PS - her hat says "Pornstar in training." NO THANKS.

Photo courtesy of Google Images

In German, "Frohe Weihnachten" means "Merry Christmas." That sounds scary.



Eryn Daly
Op-Ed Writer

Handing my phone over to Ciera Gobron Monday morning was sadly a horrible feeling. "You're not going to be able to do this," Said Gobron. "Guarantee by E period you'll be begging for your phone back."

I knew giving up texting for 48 hours would be hard, but, how hard? (I should've known it would be hard, seeing as I'm texting as I write this article...) How many of us teens have become caught up in this texting phenomenon? I wanted to prove to myself that I could be an "old school" teen. I don't need to communicate with my friends by moving my fingers on a keyboard, I can call them if I needed to talk to them. You know, have one of those 45 minute conversations with your best friend like when you're in 5th grade.

As the school day went on I was itching



to take my phone out of my backpack, press unlock and see if I had any messages. I normally do not text in school but it has become such a habit for me to even just check my phone where ever I am.

Being in class wasn't so hard but I think because I didn't have my phone I noticed everyone else with their phones on their desk, pressing a button so the screen lights up to see if they have any messages. Then ever so slyly, sliding their hands under the desk to text back the person they are having a conversation with.

I got through my first school day

without

texting and I

Source: The Nielsen Company

R U TXTING?!

must say it was not as bad as I had originally anticipated. But, now it was time for the real test: going home. For once, I was actually excited about working because that just meant more hours that I wouldn't be able to text.

After work I would usually immediately reach into my pocket for my phone and check my missed messages and start texting my friends. Then, I'd get home, do homework while I text, and go to bed. But tonight was different; I'm almost embarrassed to say that I felt out of the loop. What if something important happened and I didn't know because I couldn't text? We can just say I was so bored that night without texting my friends I went to bed as early as I possibly could out of boredom.

The next day I told myself I was going to be better with my little experiment. I was not going to feel lost without my phone, that's just pathetic.

This day was a lot better than the one before. After a while I didn't even care that I couldn't check my phone or text when

I got out of work, but I will say Wednesday morning when I got my phone back I was one happy girl!

I understand not everyone needs their phone the way I do but I don't see too many teens,



even parents that aren't texting these days. When did text messaging become so popular? In a 2008 survey done by Nielsen Mobile found that the average American sent 357 texts a month while they made only 204 phone calls. "If I am busy sending a text is easier (than calling). I text and then get back to it when I'm free," explained Senior Adam Goodwin. And Goodwin is right; a lot of people have migrated to texting over calling a person because of the simplicity of it.

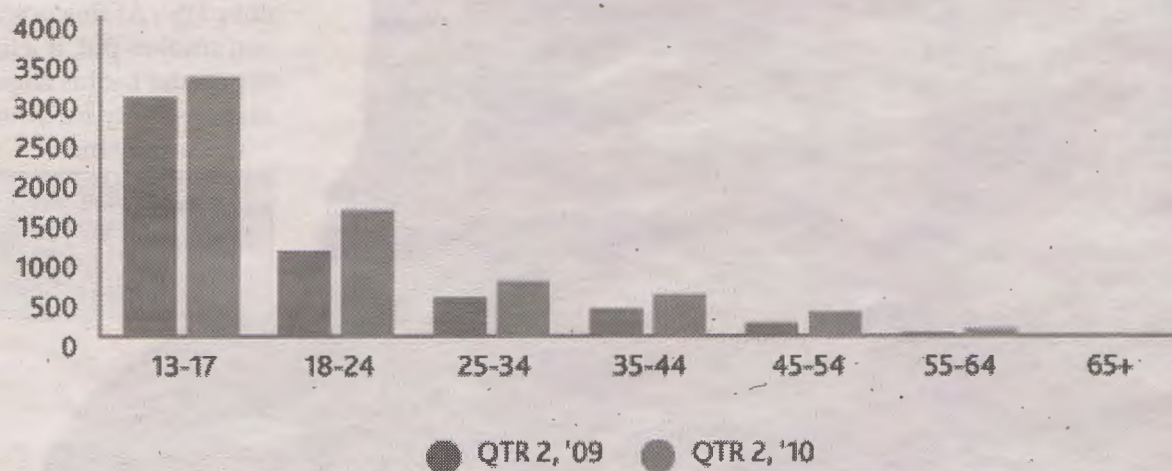
There are just those people who hate talking on the phone. "I don't know if it's just me, but talking on the phone can be incredibly awkward, there can be those long pauses where no one talks. With texting there are no awkward pauses and if you don't want to answer the person you don't have to," said Senior Emily Rogers.

For others who they text and who they call depends on the person. "If it's a crush I would probably prefer texting because I can get nervous with guys I like on the phone," explains Hallie Miller. "But if it's a friend and I'm trying to figure out what is going on for the night I will probably just call. You can get an answer faster sometimes."

Teen girls, like myself, are the ones really making the switch over to texting. According to a Nielson study teen girls send an average of 4,000 texts sent a month! I know that I have to delete my inbox once a week and my inbox holds 450 messages. But boys, you are not too far behind with an average of 3,000 a month. The fact that teens will text until their thumbs hurt is actually concerning some physicians and psychologists who say that texting is causing anxiety, failing grades

Text usage by Age

Q2 '09 - Q2 '10, Customer Value Metrics, National



● QTR 2, '09 ● QTR 2, '10

TXTING (CONT.)

How Many Texts Do You Send a Month?

Adam Goodwin-3,700	Bridget Regan- 2,000
Patrick McDonough-100	Conner Kolter- 400
Amanda Jules- 2,500	Kaitlin Luther- 400
Billy Salmon- 8,465	Stephen Luna- 10,000
Emily Dube- 3,600	Tommy O'Brien- 60
Leah Janelle - 400	Katti Phetakoune- 800
Andrea Belaidi- 400	Jack Lewis- 3,000
Megan McGregor- 600	Ben Belanger- 3,500

Mr. Kevin Towle, a driving instructor for Towle Driving School explained that when someone is texting and driving it "takes your focus away from the road because you need to touch the keyboard." Even though he is a major advocator for no texting while driving he believe that the law is hard to inforce because the police officer would need to catch you in the act and then prove you were texting and not just looking at your phone. "They need to create a hands-free law."

But just recently somone in New Hampshire was charged with texting and driving, according to WMUR.com, On November 10, 2010 Josphere Cumming was reported texting and driving recklessly down interstate 93 and proceeded to crash into a truck.

We all know teens love texting wherever they are but how do teachers feel about it during school? In Ms. Drake's math classes if shes see a phone out it goes straight to her desk until the end of the class period. Other teachers like Mrs. Raiford just politely ask you to put your phone away. Cell phones (stated in the student handbooklet) are not to be used in school, but students just feel that having it in class isnt a big deal. "My conversations are more important than whats going on in class," said Senior Willie Bornkessel.

"If you can drive a car, you should be able to keep your phone on you," says Sara Wotton.

"Cell phones are just a distraction, its one more thing for you guys to not get the instruction. I take the phones and put them on my desk to teach you guys when it is an appropriate time and place to text, my class is not an

and sleep disorders. But because texting is such a recent trend there is there is no health data to prove it. According to the Washington Post, something that has been proved is that "hyper-texters" (those who send more than 120 messages a day) are twice as likely to abuse drugs and have sex at a young age. "The startling results of this study suggest that when left unchecked texting and other widely popular methods of staying connected can have dangerous health effects on teenagers," said Scott Frank, the author of this study.

Texting and driving has become a widely argued topic over the last couple years. Here in New Hampshire texting while driving was banned January 1st 2010. House Bill 34 reads: "A person operating a moving motor vehicle that writes a text message or uses 2 hands to type on or operate an electronic or telecommunication device is guilty of a violation," and this offense can be a fine of \$100. This information was taken from handsfreeinfo.com

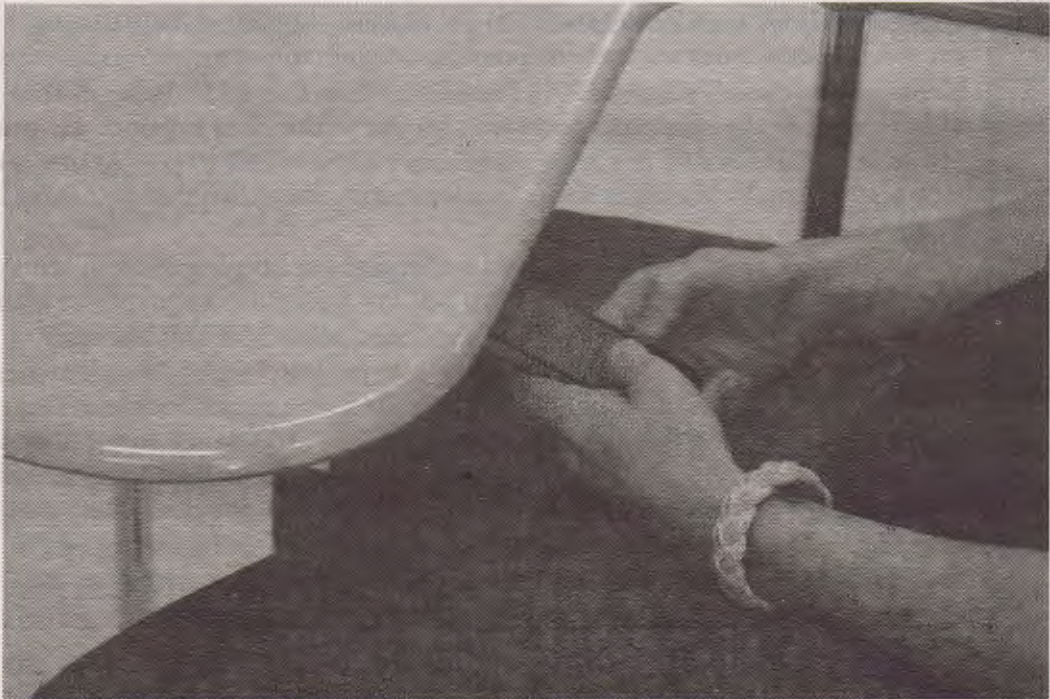
Almost every state has some type of texting and driving law because of the many tragic accidents that have been caused by someone dangerously not paying attention to the road ways. And though it is a law in our own state, many teens do admit to texting and driving. "I do text and drive once and a while when I receive an important message but I know it can be dangerous," said an anonymous source.



A student texting behind the wheel at Oyster River

appropriate time," said Mrs. Drake. Drake is fairly new to Oyster River but her two previous schools Bedford and Goffstown both had a strick no cell phone policies. "You were not allowed to have phones active in school at all. The lunch room, during lunch, was the designated area for them," explained Drake. Will Oyster River ever crack down on the no cell phone rule? "I don't believe we will ever have a rule of absolutly not cell phones during school," explained Assistant Pricipal Sara Wotton. "Parents expect their children to be able to text them back or call them during free time. I think its resonable to be able to keep it in your pocket during class so you can pay attention."

"If you can drive a car, you should be able to keep your phone on you," said Wotton.



Senior Willie Bornkessel "discretely" texts under his desk during math class. Bornkessel admits to frequently sending and receiving texts in class.

SIT ON MY 'NADE!



Michael Bilynsky
Guest Writer

Every block day at Oyster River High School the senior core transforms from a locker bank into a battlefield for a Human-Alien war. The sounds of explosions and gunshots emanate from the middle of the core as the four vs. four battles rage.

Halo 2 has provided the students of ORHS with an outlet to release all the frustrations of school. With two system-linked Xboxes in the senior core, students can BXR, dub-shot and n00b combo each other during their free periods. Halo has been a popular game ever since its release in 2004. Ever since the class of 2010 played Nintendo 64 in the senior core, students in the class of 2011 have wanted to play their favorite video game in the core as well. However, they have met serious opposition from the administration at ORHS.

During the first weeks of school students Spencer Wyand and Dylan Kelly put the idea into action by bringing in a TV, an Xbox as well as a number of games. "I brought in my Xbox and Dylan Brought in his TV, the whole thing just kind of grew from there" said Wyand. Halo quickly became popular, too popular.

More students began to skip and arrive tardy to classes as a result of the game. This caused Principal Laura Rogers to oppose the Xbox and remove it from the core. "I didn't have a problem with it until students began to skip classes and come late to class," said Rogers.

The TVs and Xboxes were removed from the core on September 23, although Mrs. Rogers allowed Wyand and Kelly to bring Halo back to the core on Thursday, November 4 and is still allowed in the core on block days.

Rogers feels that it is a good way to pass the time and way to keep kids in the school during blocked free periods. "A blocked free period is a long free period to have and I know that sometimes students need a break," said Rogers. "Also, I would rather have kids playing video games then leaving school during double blocks."

Many students disagree with Mrs. Rogers's decision to suspend and limit the times when the TVs and Xboxes are allowed in the senior core. Wyand has been a strong advocate for Halo in school and feels that the game doesn't



Master Chief, the main character in Halo 2, dual wielding SMGs
Photo courtesy of Google Images

The Top Ten

Halo has become very competitive in the core. Students continuously hone their skills as they prepare for free periods during block days. It is about time that we recognize the people that have played too much Halo.

My Top Ten Players

Spencer Wyand.....(IllWhoPuRHeadBoy)
Joseph Fletcher.....(Yung wolf)
Jack Clancy.....(TakeNotes)
Asher Booz.....(sammyhiggz)
John Andrews.....(Floating Yoshi)
Sam Higgs.....(house of pain)
Andy Southworth.....(bornkiller)
Tony Limauro.....(HollowTips)
Xander Bahl.....(your mom)
Jake Baver.....(cococoq)

If you feel you should be on the list...
PROVE YOURSELF!

affect his school work or his ability to get to class. "I played Halo during my free periods, but I was still responsible enough to get my work done and be on time to class." Class of 2011 President Ethan Hotchkiss believes that video games in the core are a good way for the senior class to bond. He said, "Halo unites us socially as a class. It causes people to talk to people that they wouldn't normally socialize with. In a way, it breaks down the click aspect in our core."

Staff members at ORHS have mixed feelings about keeping Halo in school. Mrs. Miale feels that it is a safe and fun activity for kids to be involved with. "It might keep some kids out of mischief," said Miale. "If kids are busy playing the game then they aren't getting into trouble." Economics Teacher Heather Healy on the other hand, feels that the game causes kids to waste their free time during the day. "It didn't affect my attendance, but it does affect what kids do with their free time and what they focus on during school."

Whether they go by the energy sword or live through the double kill people love Halo. The administration's decision to limit the halo has replaced the sounds of battle rifles and detonating grenades with a clam silence of the cease fire, although every two weeks the battle resumes and the sounds of war fill the core.

THE ULTIMATE OVERRATED / UNDERRATED LIST OF 2010



Brady Brickner-Wood
Op-Ed Writer

I know what you're thinking: another cliché overrated/underrated list. Still, I felt that this list was more pivotal than ever in today's era of bad music, bad TV and bad...everything. But for everything bad, there is something great waiting to be exposed. You can disagree or agree with me, but this is my *overrated/underrated* list for 2010.

OVERRATED:

Jersey Shore

As one of the most popular show among the boys and girls of Oyster River and everywhere else across the country, I figured that the Jersey Shore couldn't be that bad. However, after I watched an episode with a bunch of Snooki and Pauly D fanatics, I wanted to punch a hole through the wall I was sitting next to. I've seen a fair share of reality TV shows and occasionally, they can be rather entertaining (let's be honest, *Flavor of Love* and *For the Love of Ray-J* were straight-up classics). Yet, when I was watching Jersey Shore I was amazed at how dumb and annoying these people actually were. But what's the worst part about the show? I know people that look at the cast as role models. There are some things in this world that I just don't understand.



Gucci Mane

I don't know where to begin. Besides the fact that all of Gucci Mane's beats are horrible, his lyrics, song content and voice are all annoying and lack any form of talent. "He's the absolute worst rapper of all time" senior Geoff Lee says. I have yet to meet a human being that has told me they thoroughly enjoy listening to his music, yet I know there are people out there that do. Two questions for those people that like Gucci Mane: 1.) WHY!?! 2.) How do you understand him when he raps? All I hear is a collection of whale noises. (If you have never had the experience to listen to Gucci Mane, just imagine listening to a cow getting milked over music that sounds like a fifth grade Fisher Price keyboard song.)



3D Movies

To be fair to 3D movie lovers everywhere, I have never actually seen a 3D movie, however, the insane hype around these films is getting out of hand. I'm supposed to spend \$15.00 for a bad movie and the only kick it's in 3D? I don't think so. I am not one for blowing \$9.00 in a movie theatre anyway, but I just don't understand the concept of spending more money to see special effects in a terrible battle movie.

Maine

Maybe it's just me, but I don't only think Maine is overrated, I flat out hate it. I have taken four family vacations in the claimed "Vacationland" and gone to two separate overnight camps there and each time I have not only dreaded my time, I have strongly considered sprinting hundreds of miles on the highway of Maine until I reached the border of my beloved state of New Hampshire. My message to Maine: join Canada, you'd fit in perfectly.



UNDERRATED:

Dexter (Showtime TV Series)

Around this time last year, I had only heard awful and creepy things about this eerie show with the main character being a maniacal serial killer. However, when I watched the pilot episode of this supposedly bad show, I almost peed my pants with amazement. Senior Joseph Fletcher also recollects on the first time he watched Dexter. "At first, I was kind of scared, but now, I love Dexter." Since that day, I have watched every episode to date and currently am immersed in the 5th season. Just because the main character is a serial killer doesn't mean the show is creepy, the show is in fact, the best TV series I have ever laid my eyes on.



Troy Smith (QB, San Francisco 49ers)

The 2006 Heisman Trophy winner has been dealt a bad hand ever since entering the NFL. As a 5'11, 200 lb. speed demon coming out of college, Smith fell very low in the NFL draft, going in the fifth round. After playing three seasons as the Baltimore Ravens backup and never truly getting a chance to prove himself, he was released from the team. As everything appeared to have gone downhill for the former college star, the struggling San Francisco 49ers signed the free agent and gave him a chance to start. What was the outcome of Smith's first four professional starts? An outstanding 829 yards passing, three phenomenal touchdown throws, an impressive 55.4% of his passes were completed and most importantly, he led the 49ers to three wins. Fellow Troy Smith fanatic and Oyster River Senior Kyle Scarano says "Troy Smith is so good; it's about time he got a chance to start!"

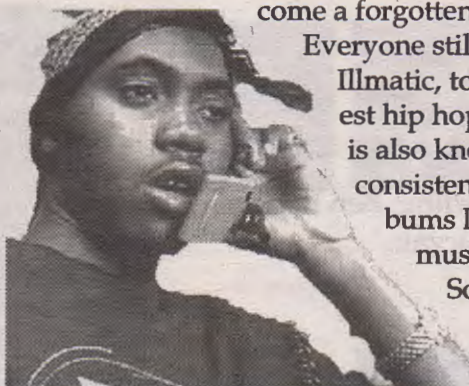


Third Eye Blind

Over the years, I have heard surprising amounts of hatred expressed towards a group I have bumped since I was in 5th grade. They have slowly declined in recent years, but in 1997, 3EB released one of the best albums in music history. Their self titled debut is not only a classic in the eyes of many, but a revolutionary album, dipping into different genres of alternative, rock and punk. Out of the 14 tracks on the album, I genuinely love 13 of them.

Nas

It's sad that I have to write this legendary name under an underrated category. Yet, unfortunately, Nas has become a forgotten jewel in the music industry. Everyone still recognizes his debut album, *Illmatic*, to be one of, if not the greatest hip hop albums of all time. But he is also known to have one of the best consistent track records in hip hop. Albums like *It Was Written*, *Nastradamus*, *I Am...*, *Stillmatic* and *God's Son*, remain in an undisputed category of musical greatness. Go out and listen to Nas, he is one of the best.



OVERRATED'S THAT JUST MISSED THE CUT

- Nicki Minaj
- Tall people
- Saying LOL and ROFL COPTER

UNDERRATED'S THAT JUST MISSED THE CUT

- Derek Jeter
- Acie Law IV
- Animal Crackers

PDA IS NOT OKAY



Bridget Regan
Editor-in-Chief

“Vomit. Go away. Please stop. Nobody wants to see it. Keep it to yourself. Vomit. Blah,” says teacher, John Morin. This seems to be the general attitude about Public Display of Affection in Oyster River High School, but why do we still turn corners and find freshman licking each other’s fingers?

It seems as if almost every year someone writes an article for the paper about PDA and how disgusting it is and how it needs to stop, but do people actually care? Some students at Oyster River seem to have a problem with it. Senior Leah Janelle says, “I think it’s disgusting! Get a room! No one wants to see people groping each other.”

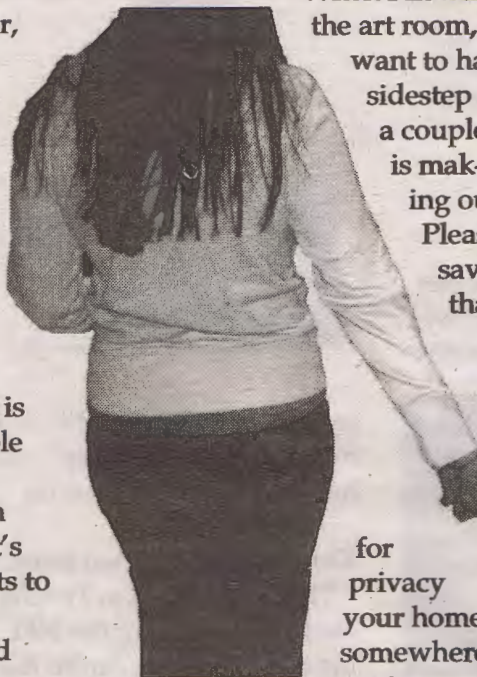
Ethan Hotchkiss, another senior, had a little more to say about this topic. “There’s a line of acceptability that people cross. You can kiss someone, but you can’t make out with them.”

Which brings me to the subject of kissing. A peck before a class is okay, but is it really needed before and after every single class of the day? Do you really

have that much separation anxiety that you can’t not touch your significant other for 50 minutes?

There’s also a time and place for everything.

When I’m walking into the art room, I don’t want to have to sidestep around a couple that is making out. Please, save that



for the privacy of your homes, or somewhere that is not in my way.

Teacher, David

Hawley, has a strong opinion on PDA as well. He feels that we should have a color system, much like the terrorist watch system we have in place for our country. The system would go as follows: Green – elementary school, Yellow – middle school, and red – the high school, this year in particular.

Continuing with different levels of PDA, Hawley stated, “I don’t have a problem with holding hands. It was legit in the 50’s, it’s

legit now.”

Fellow teacher, Michael Troy has similar feelings about hand holding. I went to talk to him in his room and PDA offender Trevar Delisle had contradicting views. The following conversation took place.

“I think [PDA] should just stop at handholding,” said Troy.

“How old do you think we are?” responded Delisle.

“Aren’t you like 13?”

Megan MarkAnthony challenged.

“I’m 14,” Delisle stated harshly.

Delisle also felt strongly passionate about his behavior in school. When asked if he felt embarrassed if teachers called him out in the hallways he responded with, “They always talk to me but I don’t listen to them... They don’t have to watch. Who cares

anyways?”

Well Mr. Delisle, it seems as if most of the school cares and are frankly grossed out by the actions that you support. Troy just wants to know, “What-



Not okay PDA taking place in the core

ever happened to the good old days when kids would hide under the bleachers?”

Seriously folks, if you want to be intimate, don’t be in our way. It is gross, and no one likes it. Find a private spot, and no, that does not mean some of the back stairwells by the science wing. In the words of Janelle, “get a room.”

Okay

Handholding

Peck on the cheek

High Five

Sharing food

Casual Pinky Swear

Not Okay

Hand rubbing Ex. Rubbing someone’s thigh, rubbing their back beneath their backpack

Making out between every class, in front of other people’s lockers, and just being plain gross

Groping...anywhere

Feeding each other food

Sucking each other’s fingers in the hallway

News:



Megan McGregor, Alex Harling, Ben Belanger, Danielle Walczak

Op-Ed:



Brady Brickner-Wood, Eryn Daly, Bridget Regan

And now, let’s meet the Mouth of the River staff!



Mrs. Judy Kucera

Features:



Brenna Cahill, Emily Dube, Emily Healy, Katie Burzon

Sports:



Jack Lewis, Rachel Murphy, Mike Bilynsky

KNOW BEFORE YOU SAY



Brady Brickner-Wood
Op-Ed Writer

Ah, growing up, the process is beautiful in so many ways. And alas, as I write this, I find myself in the middle of this slow but fast process. Typically, while going through this development, I reflect on what has built the foundation of who I am. Why do I believe what I believe? Why are my political views my political views? Why

do I do what I do? While trying to answer these questions about myself, I tried to answer these questions about other people my age as well. What did I find? That every kid I knew (including myself) was insanely influenced by their parents.

This is evident in many areas of daily life, but very visible when it comes to political values. Senior Alex Hennessy says most Oyster River kids political views are "directly influenced by their parents if not exactly the same."

I couldn't even begin to say how many times I have heard students in school utter sentences such as "I hate Obama", "the Iraq war sucks", "liberals are unpatriotic", "conservatives are close minded" and many more statements. When a follow up question was asked, all that followed was a blank face and the inability to form a rebuttal. Senior Ethan Hotchkiss says he has witnessed too many instances like this in high school. "Maybe they have that opinion, but in no way can they back it up."

A big problem with this country is we're so set on this party or that party, this candidate or that candidate that we forget about the actual issues and problems at hand. If you're a Republican, so

"We're so set on this party or that party, this candidate or that candidate that we forget about the actual issues at hand."

what if Obama's a Democrat? If you don't like Obama's health-care plan, fine, but if you don't like it, base that off you're moral

opinions, not the party the president happens to be in.

My main problem? Young adults not diving into the issues at hand. By diving, I don't mean immersing yourself 100% in political issues; I mean have general idea of what is happening in the

world. And once you became educated on global issues, discover how YOU feel about it. Despite senior Bridget Regan saying "It does get hard to disagree with parents" your ideals are not how your parents feel, not how your friends feel, but how you feel. Yes, you will be influenced by the people around you, that is inevitable, but the only person that should have the ultimate say in what you deem right is yourself. If you discover that your parents and you share the same views politically, that's great. Just make sure they're your views.

So students of Oyster River, I implore you: be a strong minded thinker of your own accord.



Photo courtesy of the GazetteExtra.com

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dearest Friends,

We're writing to inform you that Bridget has deleted her Facebook. What this means is that if you want to get in touch with her... you're going to have a tough time. Now her ONLY means of communication are though email, text, cell phone, home phone, Skype, AIM, or - God forbid - a real letter. Also, nobody's going to be able to see scandy pics that she really didn't want to be uploaded, but someone thought were funny and uploaded anyways and she had to go in and untag herself before her mom saw. Yeah, no more of those pictures. OH MY GOSH WHAT ABOUT HER STATUSES!? How am I supposed to know what Bridget is thinking? I'd have to ask her? Why would I do that? Maybe she could get a Twitter. Wait, no, Twitter is for old people.

Pretty recently, a wave of technological breakthroughs and inventions has altered the lives of Americans for at least the next 6 months, when our technologic ADD will kick in again. We've all become addicted to these new "necessities" - our cell phones, our Facebooks, our iPads. The traditional printed book has been kicked to the curb with the invention of the Amazon Kindle, a device that wirelessly downloads new books and shows you the words on a colored LED screen. Yeah, it's safe to say we're getting pretty useless as a society.

If you haven't read Eryn Daly's article about texting, you should go back and check it out. SPOILER ALERT: she spends two days without texting. TWO WHOLE DAYS!? Jeez Louise, how did she do it? An anonymous junior-male, whose first name begins with an S and ends with an N, and whose last name rhymes with Tuna (if you were to write his name really small and with two lines through it, it'd look like this: *Stephen Tuna*), sends and receives about 10,000 texts per month. Let's do some math.

[30 days per month x 16(ish) waking hours per day x 60 minutes per hour] \ (10,000 texts per month) = 1 text per 2.88 waking minutes.

Go Mr. Tuna! Glad to see you're leading a productive life. If this is what our world is amounting to, what will our communication abilities be like in 20 years? Eryn has already mentioned that more people are texting today rather than having a sensible phone conversation. Really? We challenge you all to slow down a bit with all this technology. Maybe this isn't deactivating your Facebook or stopping texting completely, but take the time to look around and have a face to face conversation with the people that you're with. In 20 years these will be the simple times of our lives; we should honor that. For extra credit points, play outside on your weekends rather than spending endless hours blowing up your friends with remote control cars on Black Ops (as awesome as that is). Good luck friends.

Love you long time,

Benjamin ...and Bridget



Ben Belanger
Editor-in-Chief



Bridget Regan
Editor-in-Chief

"Meek Bolanskii" translates to "Merry Christmas" in Japanese.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Michael Bilynsky
Sports Writer

DYLAN STROGEN



Dylan Strogen warming up for a game
Courtesy of Facebook

Hockey goalies rarely get the recognition that they deserve, although Dylan Strogen is destined to be a stand out player this season after being awarded Player of the Year for division II hockey last season.

Q: Who is your sports hero?

A: "Ed Belfour, (Played goalkeeper in the NHL from 1989-2008)."

Q: What is your favorite hockey memory?

A: "Going to the World Hockey Tournament. It's kind of like the Little League World Series for Hockey."

Q: What was your least favorite hockey memory?

A: "Losing the state championship last year."

Q: What is your biggest goal for the season?

A: "To win a state championship."

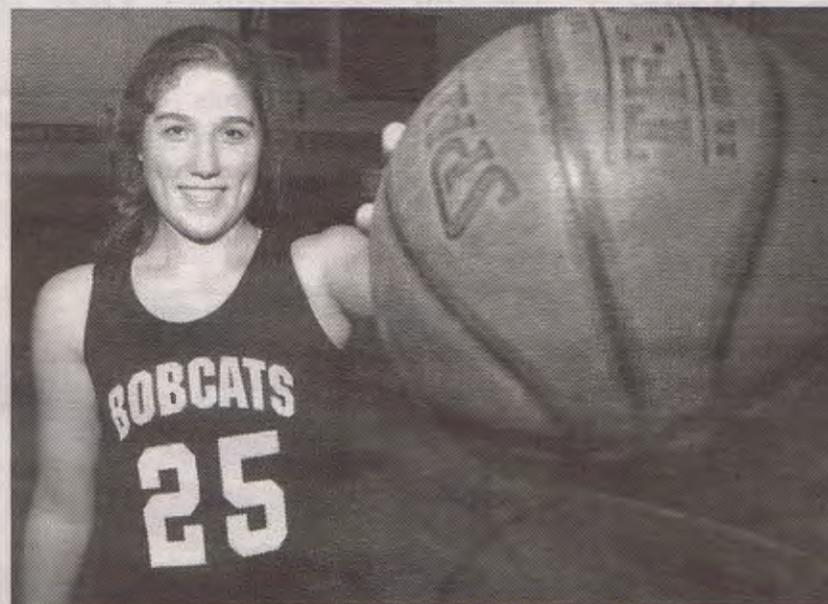
Q: What is your pre-game ritual?

A: "I always listen to 'Jump then Fall' by Taylor Swift on repeat for an hour before each game."

Q: What is your favorite brand of Hockey Equipment?

A: "Vaughn Hockey."

DANIELLE WALCZAK



Walczak palming a basketball
Courtesy of Foster's Daily Democrat

Danielle Walczak has played varsity basketball for Oyster River since her freshman year. After being awarded Player of the Year for girls' class I basketball her junior year, Walczak received a full ride scholarship to the University of Maine to play basketball. Walczak is expected to score her thousandth point during her senior season and is expected to be a key player for the girls basketball team.

Q: Who is your sports hero?

A: "Kevin Garnett is my favorite player."

Q: What is your favorite basketball memory?

A: "Winning the state championship my sophomore year."

Q: What was your least favorite basketball memory?

A: "Scoring on the wrong basket when I was younger. It was in eighth grade. Super embarrassing."

Q: What is your biggest goal for the season?

A: "To win another state championship and score 1000 points."

Q: What is your pre-game ritual?

A: "I always listen to 'Invincible' by OK Go."

Q: What is your favorite brand of apparel?

A: "Nike"



Rachel Murphy
Sports Writer

GET YOUR SUPERFAN ON AND LET IT SHINE!!!

It's a chilly Saturday evening. No one is at school, but instead everyone is where the action is at. 45 Minutes away from the high school, the faithful fans have braved through traffic. Everyone is at the girls' varsity volleyball championship game.

The bleachers are flooded with people wearing various shades of blue and orange clothing as they hold up signs, cheering. Several of the signs that they are holding, are flashing with blue and white colored lights. Almost every single inch of space is taken in the bleachers. There are fans sitting in the aisles, and standing off to the side. Oyster River High School fans are drowning out the noise of the other teams' fans with their enthusiastic cheers and chants. A red clipboard is floating down the bleachers for students to sign their names.

The bright red clipboard that you may notice is the Superfan clipboard. That very same clipboard is at almost every single sports game. Superfan is "something that our school is doing to promote school spirit. That's what the initiative is, to get more attendance at sports games and it should be fun," explained Athletic Director, Don Maynard. "The athletic council takes attendance and it's organized by them," Maynard continued. "It's up to the student to go and sign themselves in, to make sure they got their point." Within the school, Superfan has become almost like a competition. Students now make an effort to get out and go to games. Not only do they want to support their team, but they can sign themselves in and get a superfan point.

A student will get points for going to athletic events. If they sign their name on the red clipboard they will earn a Superfan point. If they go to ten games and sign their name on the clipboard each time, they will get a t-shirt. Each season, for the person who attends the most games that season, gets an overall prize. At the end of the year, there will be a prize awarded to the person who attends the most games overall. It is intended that the prize will be a laptop.

Superfan has definitely progressed since last year. This year it seems as if more fans have been attending the games. More students make the effort to go to away games, and support the teams that the school has. This year there are new shirts given away for seniors and juniors who have attended 10 sports games. The prize per season is most likely going to be a varsity coaches' jacket for the person who goes to the most games.

This year something else that has been introduced is that on the last Friday of every month there is a blue and white day. The goal for a blue and white Friday is to get more school spirit. If you participate in blue and white Fridays and show a member of athletic council member your getup, you'll get a Superfan point. The person who is the best dressed for each grade will win two Superfan points.

So, now you know and understand the concept of Superfan. But now you want to become one, right? You have to understand what it means to be a Su-

perfan. Senior: Xander Bahl believes that a Superfan is "someone who supports their school entirely. Not just through sports, but going to plays and other things."

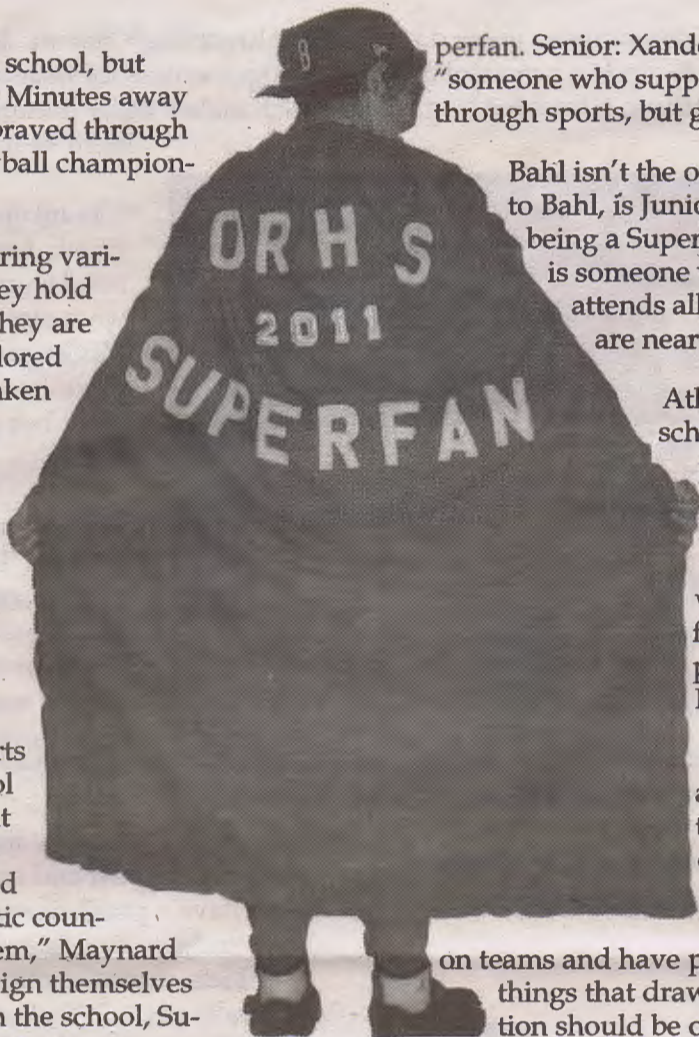
Bahl isn't the only one who thinks like this. Similar to Bahl, is Junior Natalie Bilynsky who believes in being a Superfan. She said, "I think a Superfan is someone who exceeds fan expectations and attends all the sports games no matter if they are near or far away."

Athletes who play sports through the school are glad to have friends supporting them. "It always keeps me motivated to have people shouting at me while I'm playing and offering me words of encouragement. I want to try hard because we have fans there and don't want to disappoint them," varsity soccer player, Rebecca Murphy said.

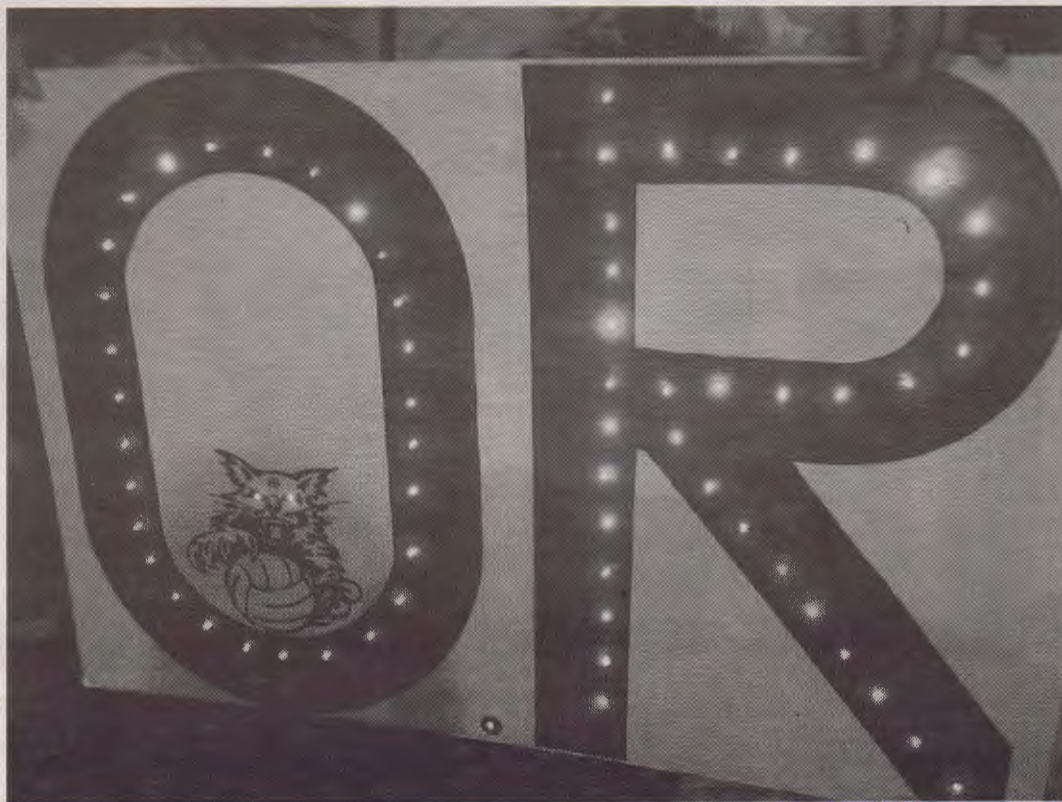
It's important to have attendance at games, but it's even more important to show respect for the players on the teams. It's about being "someone who comes into the gym to support their friends who are

on teams and have pride in their school. They don't do things that draws attention to themselves, the attention should be on the people who are completing,"

Maynard finished with a smile. Make sure to get out to the sports games this year, because it's a great time to spend with friends and even better to show your true Superfan spirit!



DON'T FORGET...next time you attend a game, check in with Mr. Maynard or a member of the Athletic Council to get your name on the clipboard and start rackin' up those superfan points!



There are 60 calories in a candy cane.



Michael Bilynsky
Sports Writer

LET'S HEAR IT ...FOR TEAM SPIRIT !

Team mohawks and matching clothes always mean game day at Oyster River High School. Many teams dress in goofy, provocative and often embarrassing clothing, but each style sends a powerful message of togetherness for its team. However, throughout the fall season some teams have worn inappropriate outfits to school for team spirit which makes many administrators wonder, how strictly should team spirit be monitored?



Nick Bernier, Louis Monterosso and Ario Dante
wearing their team shirts on game day.

Team spirit has always been an important game day ritual. Even in middle school teams would wear colored shirts and ties for away games. "We would just wear our jerseys and things in our hair," said Megan McGregor. As students grew older their spirit became more creative and crazy. Many people feel that team spirit has started to take away from school on game days.

Students at Oyster River have mixed opinions on the subject, "I kind of get annoyed sometimes when only one person goes all out (for team spirit) and ends up looking stupid," said Senior Danielle Walczak. On the other hand, Emmet Todd feels that team spirit is a great way for teams to bond. "When it works, it shows every one in the school that we are a team," said Todd. "We play as a team, we dress as a team."

Many teams have crossed the line between team spirit and inappropriate exposure. Administrators do not have a problem with team spirit, but they have been concerned about students dressing in scandalous clothing. Mrs. Rogers said, "Kids cannot be displaying bare skin where we shouldn't normally see it." The administration does not have an official dress code, but they do ask students to dress smart. Mr. Maynard's advice was to "just use good judgment, you don't want to make yourself or your team look bad."



Corey Scarano, Alyssa Johnson and Kara Pavlidis wore pajamas for team spirit last year. *Courtesy of Facebook*



Emily Rodgers, Hannah Nelson and Jenny MacArthur dress up in pajamas for field hockey team spirit. *Courtesy of Facebook*



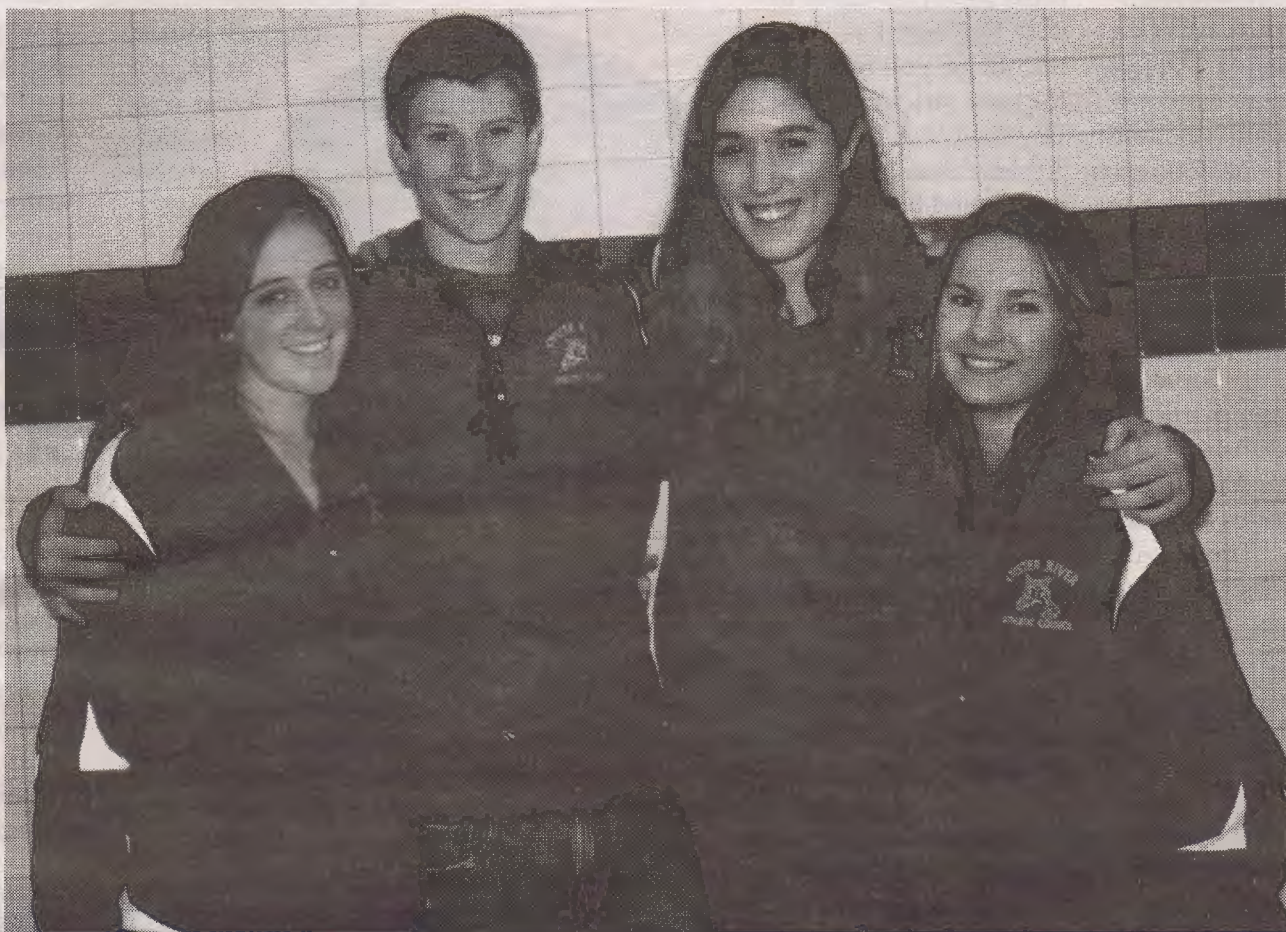
Rachel Murphy
Sports Writer

"BOBCAT PRIDE"

Recently, around the high school there have been several students spotted who have been fashionably sporting these bright blue and white fleece pullovers. These classy, steezy, and eye-catching fleeces leave many people wondering what sports team these belong to? The answer to that is that this is no sports team. It is in fact the school's Athletic Council.

Say what? What is Athletic Council? When did it start happening? The truth is it's always been there, existing even when Mr. Nichols was Athletic Director. But, now it is playing a more important role in the high school community. The Athletic Council is a group of students who deal with organizing events such as: Superfan and dodge ball, picking the athlete of the month, working with the Special Olympics, and creating Blue and White Fridays. They make sure that all of the high school athletics are run smoothly at school. The Athletic Council is headed by Athletic Director Don Maynard and led by president Danielle Walczak. The Athletic Council meets weekly and there are about twenty student members.

"The competition has gotten bigger, with more fans at games. But, I'd like to see even more," said Maynard as he spoke about the accomplishments of the Athletic Council. Mr. Maynard recreated Athletic Council about five years ago when he became Athletic Director. "The biggest thing that we have done so far has gotta be Superfan, followed closely with getting the walkway put around the sports fields. We're also working on organizing an event to happen during winterfest." According to Maynard, the Athletic Council has



ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Senior members include:

- * Danielle Walczak (President)
- * Emily Rodgers (Vice President)
- * Megan McGregor
- * Emma True
- * Mike Blilynsky
- * Adam Goodwin
- * Jenny MacArthur

Junior members include:

- * Brenna Cahill
- * Riley Maynard
- * Chole Piel (Secretary)
- * Mike Crotty
- * Austin Alphonse
- * Marissa Bedierman
- * Ned Clarke

Sophomore members include:

- * Travis Hackett
- * Kaeli McPhee
- * Zack Jones

been an ongoing project. In the future, he hinted that they could take a more serious turn and address more important things. Some of those issues the Athletic Council could address in the future might be "evolving into more of an advisory type group in the upcoming years. We'll target more serious things such as the school's drug and alcohol policy for athletes and talk about whether or not we want to change it. We'll talk about it as a council," Maynard said.

In Maynards' opinion the Athletic Director has been headed in the right direction. The members of the council are dedicated athletes who care about their school and want to improve the sports department even more. The biggest reason that Maynard refurbished the Athletic Council was because he wanted to see "more school spirit and unity." Maynard plans for the Athletic Council to become an even bigger part of the school's community.

Maynard wants the Athletic Council and its members to be more known. So let us meet our school's Athletic Council members. "I want more people to know who we are. And to see the members become more visible," Maynard finished.

KNOW THE RULES!



Jack Lewis
Sports Writer

If you believe that being a star athlete in high school is all it will take to continue to play sports in college, think again! In order to play Division 1 or 2 sports in college, you must meet the very strict require-

ments established by the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association). The NCAA was established in 1906 and serves as the athletic governing body for over 1,300 colleges and universities. The national office is in Indianapolis and they develop the rules and guidelines for athletic eligibility and athletic competition for each of the three NCAA divisions. There is even an entire website (ncaa.org) that is devoted to explaining the rules and requirements for each division.

The NCAA Eligibility center (www.eligibilitycenter.org) explains the academic requirements each student needs to meet in great detail. If you want to participate in athletics or receive an athletics scholarship during your first year in college you must abide by the following guidelines:

- Graduate from High school
- Complete 16 core courses (Division 2 schools only require 14 core courses)
- 4 years of English (Division 2- 3 years)
- 3 years of math (Algebra 1 or above) (Division 2- 2 years)
- 2 years of natural or physical science
- 1 extra year of English, math or physical science (Division 2- 2 years)
- 2 years of social science
- 4 years of extra core courses (Division 2- 3 years)

A "core" course is not just any course offered at ORHS. Every high school has a list of NCAA approved core courses that are available on the Eligibility Center's website. This same list is also available in the "Program of Studies" handbook that is provided to each ORHS student when registering for classes. It is each athlete's own responsibility to make sure that the courses they are taking or planning to take are on this list and to complete them all within 8 semesters. Laura Rainone, ORHS Guidance Counselor says that her role is "to advise students and help wherever she can." In regards to the approved core course list, she is "disappointed that neither Journalism 2 or Mass Media are on this list."

Mass Media was a previously approved

core course that was recently removed from the list. Shauna Horsley, one of the Mass Media teachers at Oyster River, says "Mass Media

is a very important and rigorous course, if the NCAA knew what the course involved they



would

hopefully reconsider."

Horsley has contacted the NCAA but all they could say was "it didn't meet the requirements."

In addition to the core course requirements listed above, you must earn a minimum GPA of 2.0 to be eligible for Division 1 or 2 athletics. For Division 1 schools, the higher GPA you have the lower SAT or ACT score is

required. For example if you have a GPA of 2.5 you need a SAT score of 820 and an ACT score of 68. If you have a GPA of 3.5, you only need an SAT score of 410 or an ACT score of 38. For Division 2 schools, you need a minimum 2.0 GPA and at least an 820 on your SATs. Only the verbal and mathematics portions are counted towards the SAT score.

Senior Brianna Datti has known she wanted to play Division 1 volleyball for a long time. Because

of her achievements in school and on the court,

Datti is attending

University of Connecticut. Datti says "I

think that the NCAA

requirements are sometimes unreasonable, I understand that there should be some basic requirements to be eligible but I think that there is too much."

"I believe students need to be better informed about these requirements" said Datti.

Guidance counselors know that certain student-athletes are going to want

to play a Division 1 or 2 sport while in college, so they have to pay close attention to those students' schedules. You need to make sure that the classes you chose to take will carry over to the NCAA. Datti said, "Personally I have never had to change my schedule because of non-approved courses, but I know others who have."

The NCAA Eligibility Center website has some great resources student athletes can use to insure they are on track for meeting the requirements. There are worksheets for Division 1 and 2 on the Eligibility Center website to help you keep track of your completed core courses, units, grades and credits that you receive, plus your GPA.

The NCAA calculates your grade point average for your GPA on a scale of 4.000. The best grades from your NCAA core courses are the ones used. Grades from additional core courses will be used to only

Continued on page 39..



Bridget Regan Practicing her B-ball skillz

ORHS NCAA Approved courses:

English: Advanced Semilar in Literature, Amer. Lit 1 and 2, Amer. Studies 1 and 2, Debate/Persusian, Eng. 1 and 2, Ess. of English, Exp. Writing, Iss. in Lit, Journalism 1, Lit. and Land, Mythology, Non. Fict., Poetry/Fiction, Sen. Seminar in Lit., Genre Studies, Women's Lit, Writing Sampler, Adv. Writing, Peace Studies, British Lit. 1 and 2, Shakespeare, Mass Media.

Social Science: Adv. Top/World Cul., Amer. Studies 1 and 2, Economics, World History 1 and 2, Psychology, Sociology, Government, U.S. History 1 and 2, World Cultures, The 60's, Adv. Topics in Current History, Citizenship Education, AP U.S. History, Russian Studies, Intro to Philosophy.

Math: Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Alg. 2/Trig, AP Calculus, Geometry, Acc. Geometry, Pre-Cal., Finite Math, Trig, AP Stats.

Science: Astronomy, Marine Biology, Biology, Adv. Bio., Physical Con., Physics, Oceanography, Phys. Science, Geology, Adv. Topics in Physics, Anatomy & Physiology, Environmental Science, Forensic Science, Adv. Chemistry.

Other: French 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, AP French, AP Spanish.

improve your GPA. To determine how many points you achieve for each course, you multiply the points for the grade by how much the credit is worth. An A is worth 4 points, B- 3 points, C-2 points, D- 1 point.

In addition to all of the NCAA academic requirements, there are also very detailed recruiting rules that both athletes and coaches must follow in regards to when recruiting materials can be sent, contacts can be made, and when unofficial and official visits are allowed. Depending upon which sport you plan to compete in, these rules can be different. Senior Danielle Walczak, who has recently committed to play basketball at the University of Maine, started her process very early. She started emailing college coaches as a freshman to let them know she was interested but due to the

rules she was not able to actually contact any coaches until her sophomore year. During the second half of her junior year interested coaches were allowed to call her. Walczak went on 6 unofficial visits to schools as a sophomore and junior. In July, she committed to the University of Maine and went on her official visit during the fall of her senior year.

Walczak said that "knowing the NCAA rules and regulations is very important...you need to know everything years in advance". She also found some parts of the recruiting process to be difficult, "The NCAA is very frustrating...The coaches that attended my basketball games were not allowed to talk to me." Because of Walczak's hard work she was offered a full scholarship to the University of Maine. Athletic scholarships can be awarded in a variety of ways. They can range

from full scholarships which include tuition, fees, room and board, and books, to very small scholarships which include only course-related books.

Oyster River Athletic Director Don Maynard, said "The more rules you have, the more you have to enforce." There is a lot of information available and you have to pay very close attention to every little detail. It is up to the student athlete to take the responsibility for knowing and following the NCAA rules.

Most of the information you'll need to know regarding the NCAA requirements can be found on either the NCAA website or the Eligibility website. Attempts to contact the NCAA directly may not be possible.



Jack Lewis
Sports Writer

Walking into an ORHS sporting event and hearing loud music with a great beat and motivating lyrics like "all I do is win, win, win no matter what" creates excitement and energy in both the fans and athletes.

Great pump up songs are loud, fast and contain lyrics that deliver a message. When a song can bring the crowd to their feet, the noise and energy that is created can motivate the team to win. Some pump up songs are great for stirring the crowd up before the game has even started where others are helpful in motivating the team when they are down.

WHAT PUMPS YOU UP???



Gubby Noronha: Top 3 Pump up Songs
-The Show Must Go On
-The Small Print
-Clubbed to Death



Caitlin Ayer: Top 3 Pump up Songs
-300 Violin Orchestra: Jorge Quintero
-My Time: Fabolous ft. Jeremih
-Remember the Name: Fort Minor



Marcela DH: Top 3 Pump up Songs
-Disco Pogo: Frauenarzt and Manny Marc
-Waka waka: Shakira
-X gonna give it to ya: DMX



Jake Woodburn: Top 3 pump up Songs
-This is Exile: Whitechapel
-Battle Cry: Shontelle
-Same Chords: Ben Lee

WELL KNOWN PUMP UP SONGS:

- All the Above: T-pain
- Just Dance: Lady Gaga
- 300 Violin Orchestra: Jorge Quintero
- Disco Pogo: Frauenarzt and Manny Marc
- Voltage: B.O.B
- Dynamite: Taio Cruz
- Coastin: Zion I ft. K Flay
- Poppin Bottles: Lil Wayne and Birdman
- Bottoms Up: Trey Songz
- A Milli- Lil Wayne
- Lose Yourself: Eminem
- Candy Man: Cornershop
- Til I Collapse: Eminem
- Life is Cinema: Macklemore featuring Ryan Lewis
- X Gonna Give it to Ya : DMX
- Where de Hood at?: DMX
- All I do is Win: T-Pain
- Like Toy Soldiers: Eminem
- Won't Back Down: Eminem/Pink
- Make It Rain: Fat Joe
- D.O.A: Jay-Z
- Dirt Off Your Shoulder: Jay-Z
- On to the Next One: Jay-Z
- Power Remix: Kanye, Jay-Z, Swizz Beats
- Monster: Kanye, Jay-Z, Rick Ross, Nicki Minaj
- I Like It: Enrique Iglesias
- Remember the Name: Fort Minor
- I'm So Paid: Akon
- Get Buck in Here: Akon
- Ante Up: Busta Rhymes

Photos courtesy of Facebook and Google Images



Rachel Murphy
Sports Writer

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

Winter sports are here! It's time to break out your skis, pull on your swimsuit, or slip on your uniform and pads.

There are seven teams gearing up to start this month so make sure to get out and support them! The

seven teams include: swimming and diving, boys' ice hockey, girls' ice hockey, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, indoor track and ski team. Each of those teams displays a tremendous amount of talent as they play in games, and practice. Even more important, all of the athletes show a great amount of team spirit, and pride of their school.

When you're part of a team it's like you become their family for several weeks. After school and on the weekends, you find yourself That's one of the things that make the sports teams so special. And if you're a senior, it may be your last chance to play a high school sport. It also may be your last chance to go see a basketball or hockey game as an ORHS student.

What you can do if you are not participating on a winter sports team is get out and watch some games. Do your best to get yourselves out there, and support the school! Show your bobcat spirit, loud and proud! Go catch a boys' varsity hockey game on a Friday afternoon with some friends! You'll have a lot of fun and you're probably in for a great game as well! And if this doesn't convince you, how does earning another Superfan point sound? You can get even closer to being one of the top Superfans by just going to the games and signing your names on the red clip board.

There are several things that Oyster River athletes look forward to about the season. Whether it is playing a game or spending time with their teammates. Through winter sports comes new found friendships, bonding, and playing in the games. It's these memories that most players look back on, and remember their high school dinner spaghetti dinners and friends that they made.

A PREVIEW OF THE TEAMS:

Girls' Varsity Hockey:

Junior center-mid: Marissa Biederman who has been on the girls' varsity hockey team since eighth grade is "looking forward to having a great year because there is a good chance that we could win this year," she said with a smile. "I'm pretty pumped," Biederman added.

Sophomore, forward: Lynn Burke said that her favorite thing, "is not just the games, but the bus rides and locker room conversations. You really get to know your teammates on and off the ice."

Look out for: Jenny MacArthur, and Meredith Gitschier.

Boys' Varsity Hockey:



"We have to go into the season being optimistic, and hope we start off on a good foot" - Sam Higgs.

Look out for: Dylan Strogon and Sam Higgs.

Images Courtesy of Google Images.

Girls' Varsity Basketball:

"The season is looking very positive. We have a lot of talented players. And if we work hard we'll win," Danielle Walczak

Look out for: Kelsey Brown

Boys' Varsity Basketball:

"We're hoping to have a successful season, we have a strong core of seniors and good underclassman. We have good team chemistry," Brady Brickner-Wood

Junior to look out for: Nick Diveglia
Senior to look out for: Alex Hennessy



Indoor Track:

"We're excited because people usually enjoy the track season because it's different than cross country and their excited to have a great season" - Meredith Misstretta

Look out for: Gubby Noronha and Marina Slavin.



Swimming and Diving:

Swim team begins their season with the Icebreaker Invitational home meet on December 19th.

"I'm looking forward to states with our success in the past and hopefully we'll win another state championship" - Tommy Duvall.

Look out for: Scott Fillion and Haley Jones.



"I'm really excited for the season because we have a really strong team and hopefully we do really well" - Jack Lewis

Look out for divers: Emma True, Caitlin Ayer and Jack Lewis

Ski Team:

"I think we're going to be really successful because we have a lot of good skiers. But no matter what, it's going to be a fun season" - Olivia Moore.

Look out for: Molly McQuade and Brogan O'Rourke.



With questions of comments about articles, contact us directly at MouthoftheRiver2011@gmail.com